

Hafa Adai!

Investor group to test NMI market with B&B business. **PAGE 3**

Lack of autopsy expert has 'so far' not affected DPS. **PAGE 8**

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BOE rescinds addendum part; runs risk of school shutdowns

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has rescinded parts of a recently issued addendum to the job contracts of Public School System personnel, removing the part that would have allowed PSS to further slash salaries.

See BOE on Page 4

Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan), as a special guest of the Board of Education, provides some insights yesterday before the Public School System staff and the BOE during the meeting's public comments portion.

ERWIN ENCINARES



AMIDST DRASTIC AUSTERITY MEASURES PSS cries for help

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Hit hard by austerity measures necessitated by a suddenly contracting economy, administrators, teachers, and other staff of the Public School System aired their frustration and disappointment yesterday before the House of Representatives during a jam-packed session on Capital Hill. They spoke about the tattered financial state of PSS and the crisis facing its personnel.

CNMI State Board of Education member Andrew Orsini said PSS is going through tremendous

See PSS on Page 4

House grants reprogramming powers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed a bill yesterday that would allow several CNMI government officials to realign their funds, with a sunset provision that their reprogramming authority would last only until the end of the 2019 fiscal year, which is Sept. 30.

House Bill 21-56, which would

See HOUSE on Page 4

OVERALL CHAMPION

Members of Team D&Q pose after the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Corporate Challenge on June 2, at Minatichom Atdao in Susupe. The team was named the overall champion at this year's Corporate Challenge. The D&Q Warriors also walked away with two individual prizes in the game portion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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LOCAL

Several Da'ok Academy students learned the basics of deep-sea fishing over the weekend.

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Venezuelans adopt recycling habits in response to the economic chaos gripping the oil nation.

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ASIA

A measure in Hong Kong has pushed the former British colony to its biggest political crisis.

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Local

Settlement Fund seeks suspension of proceedings

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund is asking the Superior Court to temporarily stay or suspend the proceedings in its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI government over the \$4.4 million that CUC allegedly owes the Retirement Fund.

The NMI Settlement Fund, through counsel Nicole M.

Torres-Ripple, said a three-month stay is warranted because the questions raised in CUC's and CNMI government's motion to dismiss the lawsuit require an interpretation of the settlement agreement in the Betty Johnson class action in federal court.

In 2013, the U.S. District Court for the NMI gave final approval to the global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI

government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were transferred to the Settlement Fund, administered by a court-appointed trustee.

In the Settlement Fund's emergency motion for temporary stay, Torres-Ripple said the District Court has continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation and enforcement of the

settlement agreement in Johnson's lawsuit.

Torres-Ripple said a stay is necessary to give the Settlement Fund enough time to request the District Court's determination on issues raised by CUC and the CNMI government relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the settlement agreement.

Last Saturday, the NMI Settlement Fund trustee, through Torres-Ripple, asked the Dis-

trict Court to issue an order enforcing the Johnson settlement agreement and finding that the claims asserted in the Superior Court case were not resolved by that settlement deal.

The NMI Settlement Fund filed the two motions in the Superior Court and in the District Court after CUC and the CNMI government in their motion to dismiss the Settlement Fund's lawsuit, argued for the first time that the Johnson settlement agreement resolved CUC's liabilities in the Superior Court lawsuit.

Torres-Ripple said the crux of the CUC's and CNMI government's arguments in favor of the dismissal of the Settlement Fund's claims is that no actual controversy exists because the settlement agreement disposed of all government liabilities, including CUC's liabilities, for unpaid employer contributions.

The lawyer said a stay will help the Superior Court in proceeding with the lawsuit instead of prematurely holding a hearing and requiring briefing on issues that depend on the determination of the main issue in the motion to dis-

miss—whether the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action resolved the claims against CUC.

In CUC's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, CUC counsel Jose Mafnas Jr. asserted that the CNMI government absorbed all liabilities owed the NMI Settlement Fund as of Aug. 6, 2013, through the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action.

Mafnas said the settlement agreement was approved in September 2013, close to two-and-a-half years after CUC and the CNMI executed a memorandum of understanding on March 11, 2011.

Mafnas said there cannot be a breach of contract because CUC continues to pay its employer contributions to the Settlement Fund at the scheduled rates and terms as intended by the settlement agreement.

In the CNMI government's motion to join CUC's request to dismiss the lawsuit, assistant attorney general Hessel Yntema said that, based upon the Settlement Fund's lawsuit, it is apparent that the Settlement Fund seeks to double collect from the CNMI after having been party to a universal settlement in Johnson's class action that was terminated over half a decade ago.




COMMUNITY SERVICE

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago, fourth left, poses with Tau Gamma Phi Northern Mariana Islands Council members and volunteer nurses during last Sunday's free health screening at the annual Pistang Pinoy at the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Investor group to test NMI market with B&B business

A group of investors that is said to own several hotels in China

is working to open a bed-and-breakfast business on Saipan to

“test the CNMI market.”

Wing Piu Billy Lam disclosed in an interview Monday night that he is representing American Huasheng Trade Co. that has acquired a two-story building along Tasi Drive in Dandan.

The residential building currently has six bedroom units and Lam said American Huasheng is investing \$35,000 to convert it into a bed-and-breakfast establishment.

The Rotary Club of Saipan welcomed a visiting member from Brazil yesterday during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

Tony Hu, a member of the Rotary Club de Brasilia International, is a native of Taiwan and currently lives there. He visits Brazil every three to four months. He is a recent member of the Brazilian Rotary Club; he joined about a month and a half ago. However, his wife is a longtime member of the club.

Hu also coordinated with several projects back in Brazil. One important project is the planting of 15,000 trees in areas that experience heavy droughts.

“An important ongoing project is our humanitarian services to the refugees coming in from Venezuela. ... We try to provide

American Huasheng has applied for a permit with the Zoning Office to operate the bed-and-breakfast establishment. The Zoning Board will conduct a public hearing about the company's application tomorrow, Thursday, at 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

It is the company's first investment in the CNMI. If successful, Lam said the company wants to build a hotel on Saipan.

He said the company is composed of investors from China and their target markets are Chinese, Korean, and Japanese tourists.

Lam conceded that many investors are concerned about what they have heard about the CNMI economy after Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction last October, as well as the lack of a ready labor force.

“Before, it was easy to build something because there were

a lot of workers. Before, it was easy to get visa investors for 10 years,” Lam said.

He hopes the CNMI government would help investors and improve the economy by informing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that the lack of CW-1 workers is badly affecting businesses.

“Many investors see empty establishments on the island,” Lam pointed out. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

Judge: Reject company filings in US govt suit to collect \$39K fines

The federal court has directed the court's clerk to reject further filings from any agent of a construction company that is being sued by the U.S. government that seeks to collect \$39,489 in civil penalties that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration imposed against the company for alleged OSHA violations in 2013 and 2016.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the court will only accept the filings from a lawyer representing the company, Northpac Corp.

Manglona said a longstanding rule is that a corporation must appear in court through a lawyer.

The judge noted that no attorney has made an appearance for Northpac.

Instead, an agent of Northpac filed at the court's clerk's office last June 5 a document that he said was Northpac's answer to the U.S. government's complaint. The document was signed by Northpac general manager Miguel Cruz Jr.

The clerk entered the docu-

ment as Northpac's answer but Manglona noted that it was an offer of settlement.

Because it was not considered a proper response to a complaint under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the court directed the clerk to remove it from the docket.

In the document, Cruz told assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Wessling, counsel for the U.S. government, that this case should have been settled long ago. Cruz said that on May 30, 2018, they sent a letter agreeing to the offer of the U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA legal counsel Sonia Shao for a 50-percent reduction of the \$17,102 penalty.

Cruz said they would like to settle by paying in full \$4,940 and paying in installment at \$300 a month the remaining \$8,551.

In its lawsuit, the U.S. government asked the court to hold Northpac liable to pay \$21,876.31 in the first violation and \$17,972.88 in the second violation, or for a total of \$39,849.19 as of April 10, 2019, plus accruing interest and costs. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

Rotary Club welcomes visiting member



MARC VENUS

Rotary Club de Brasilia International's Tony Hu, center, holds up both Brazilian and Saipan Rotary club flags between Rotary Club of Saipan's secretary Sonya Dancoe and president Greg Borja.

as much aid as we can,” he said.

Hu is also visiting Saipan

for the Veterans Foreign Wars

Pacific Regional Convention at

the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

“It's always a pleasure to have visiting Rotarians come and join us at our meetings,” said Rotary Club of Saipan's president Greg Borja. “It is great to have... Tony... share all the projects that they are doing in Brazil.”

He said what other Rotary clubs are doing provide inspiration “[on] what we can do to advance our community in terms of humanitarian services.” **(Marc Venus)**

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BOE

From Page 1

Instead, a new addendum would state that the recent 50-percent cut in salary increases would be the final salary reductions for PSS staff.

In yesterday's emergency meeting and after several executive sessions, the BOE unanimously rescinded a portion of the addendum that allowed PSS to reserve the right to implement even more salary increase reductions, if needed.

BOE Tinian representative Philip Mendiola-Long moved for the adoption of a new addendum and it was seconded by Saipan representative Andrew Orsini. After about 30 minutes in executive session, the new addendum garnered unanimous board approval.

According to the BOE discussions, the new addendum would be passed along to PSS employees for their signatures.

The ultimatum for PSS employees to sign or get laid off remains intact, with the final date still slated for June 21, 2019, with the same parameters.

Public school teacher representative Paul Miura attempted to ask for more time so that PSS staff could discuss the new addendum further.

However, BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio noted that action must be taken immediately in order to prevent even more extreme cuts.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña pointed out that, with the way the new addendum is worded, some schools may have to be shut down.

"...The addendum released already [June 6, 2019] states that for our certified staff, their cut doesn't take effect until Aug. 9, 2019. For our non-certified staff, the pay cut took effect [Monday]," he said. "But, if we approve the new [addendum] then it pretty much says that there is no further reduction [but] rather it is understood that if there is no money, we would have to close down schools until such time that funding comes back."

The BOE legal counsel clarified that the due dates for employees to sign the new addendum and the dates that the pay cut would take affect remain unchanged.

"I just hope and wish that if we do approve this [new addendum] that we do a lot better in disseminating this information to our teachers and employees...where the key management would visit schools or the principals be aware so they have time to ex-

plain it to the teachers," BOE Rota representative Herman Atalig said. "I ask that we do this the right way due to sensitivity."

Miura asked the board prior to voting on the new addendum what would happen should funding be short for payday and if teachers would receive compensation once funding becomes available.

"...If I am supporting an option that says that when schools close and there will be no payroll, then I cannot support that," Miura said.

"It's all dependent on whether or not we do have the money for payroll," Muña replied.

"Full payroll," Ada interjected.

If there is no more funding from the central government, then "...every school will be closed. It will be a payless Friday," Atalig added. "It's either you get a full check or not."

Muña assured Miura that if there is no funding received from the central government, and schools are shut down, teachers would still be compensated, although that will be delayed.

"...[Compensation] will be delayed until such time that we receive [the funds]," Muña said.

In an interview after the four-hour emergency board meeting, Tenorio noted that she is confident that the central government would not allow schools to close.

"Fortunately, it's summer," Tenorio said. "[But] I am confident that the administration and the Legislature would not allow [school closures]."

"However, I believe we need to go back to the drawing board and adjust the salaries and merge tasks," she added.

Erratic remittances forced addendum wording

The BOE explained through their legal counsels to teachers yesterday that the addendum was worded the way it was because the erratic biweekly remittances from the central government forced them to favor flexibility over quantity to prevent "payless paydays."

During yesterday's public comments section of the BOE meeting, several PSS staff cried foul over the wording of their June 6, 2019, addendum that basically asked PSS staff to either accept the inevitable salary reductions and be subject to possibly more reductions or get laid off.

"The reason it is uncertain for you is it is uncertain

of our revenues, he doesn't seem to owe the Legislature or the people to explain what is going on.

"Rome is burning and Nero is out globetrotting the world, playing his fiddle."

Propst said he too was torn over the measure. "I do feel that it is partial victory. It is better to have something versus nothing. The leadership has the numbers and they respectfully call for flexibility, whether the governor needs it or not is something that we can continue to deliberate and debate."

"But, I look at the good that came out; that is safeguarding and insuring in providing complete clarity on the amendment that we passed. To ensure autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies and corporations are protected. To ensure the governor does not overreach into these agencies."

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) said the legislation will give flexibility to the three branches of government. "So, that we can avoid further cuts. We try our best here as a body to find solutions. We repeatedly hear the Finance secretary, during the Ways and Means Committee meeting, that cash flow is not there. That's the reality."

"This legislation will [provide] flexibility. This has never been popular but, at this financial crisis that we are experiencing now, we owe it to our people that we don't want further cuts. If cash flow does not come in as expected, we expect another eight-hour cut; our reduction already hurts."

for us," the BOE legal counsel noted.

If the central government was able to give PSS a stable remittance, then the addendum would not have been worded that way.

"We don't know what they [the central government] is going to give us," he said. "... Because we don't understand

PSS

From Page 1

financial hardship right now. "We won't be able to function normally. I just want everyone to know...that education [remains] our priority," [which is] why I'm here is for the almost 11,000 students that we have. If we continue to have this situation, we might be looking at shutting down the schools."

MaryLou Ada, who is a former BOE chairwoman and a current member, said that they have cut PSS' budget to the bone. "We don't know where else to cut. In 2018, the CNMI government still owes PSS \$7.9 million. In 2019, our budget was cut by 50 percent. In January, we met with the governor [Ralph DLG Torres], who told us that the budget was cut by \$4 million. Three months later, it was cut by \$7 million."

"... We can't operate schools like this," she said.

Ada pointed out that more than 10,000 children and 1,052 employees report to PSS every morning and it is her duty as a board member to make sure that all schools are open in a safe and orderly fashion, and the quality of education all these children are getting is what is expected today in the 21st century.

PSS associate commissioner for Student Support Services Yvonne Pangelinan said she stands with the teachers and the hundreds of their employees that must not be forgotten in this dilemma.

"I have worked for [PSS] for over two and a half decades and, yes, today it is possible to use my salary to divert from the conversation that matters, but it wasn't so 26 years ago when I signed my first contract for \$11,000, so I can empathize with everyone who is looking to get some answers," said Pangelinan.

"After 26 years I am appalled that we still have to justify the value of education in the CNMI. I am appalled that we have not yet grasped the fact that without a robust educational system, there can be no economic prosperity. I am here because I take my leadership seriously even when it is in question."

Pangelinan is frustrated over the seeming lack of urgency, "the inaction and the disregard for transparency that has caused so much discord within our PSS family.

"What frustrates me is that it has taken this to spur our government to action. The waters

what kind of money we are going to get, we need the flexibility to act quickly to avoid a payless payday."

Mendiola-Long noted that the math simply did not "add up" but the BOE opted to prioritize staff salaries over anything else. Tenorio as BOE chair even apologized to PSS staff for the addendum.

have been so muddled that, instead of working together, we are now bumping into each other, hoping to find a way out [and] not considering who gets hurt in the process."

Phyllis Ain, who is a teacher, said the Legislature has allocated \$42.8 million to PSS for fiscal year 2019 but the Office of the Governor has failed to remit this amount—in violation of Article XV, Section 1 (e) of the CNMI Constitution.

"The governor has steadily decreased remittances to PSS to a point where PSS cannot pay teacher salaries and fulfill its obligations to its administrative staff, third party service providers, and vendors. As of June 6, 2019, of the \$35.3 million due to PSS after budget reductions, PSS has received only \$17.9 million, which is 51 percent of the appropriations passed by the Legislature. This deficit only increases as time passes.

"Please consider: during fiscal year 2019 and prior to the revised budgetary appropriations, the Office of the Governor failed to transmit at least three payroll remittances in the amount of \$7 million. What happened to these funds? The Legislature appropriated the \$7 million for [PSS], but this amount was never transmitted. The governor's action calls for oversight by the Legislature to determine where these funds were diverted."

Former education commissioner Rita Sablan said it was the first time that she heard the news of the possibility of shutting down schools, which she described as "a disgrace to the children of the CNMI."

"Here is a little scenario for all of us: in less than two weeks, we have over 200 college graduates that will be potentially unemployed. We have over 600 high school graduates whose post-high school plans will now have to be drastically changed because the super economy met its death immediately after 2018," she said.

"So why are we here? You have been so quiet and we want to hear from you. We want action from this legislative body. We are here because we know that you have the capability to address our concern, you have the legislative function to appropriate the annual budget, and you have the authority to conduct oversight hearings and to subpoena individuals, and conduct investigations," she added.

HOUSE

From Page 1

give governor, chief justice, Legislative Bureau director, mayors, and the municipal council limited reprogramming authority, passed the lower chamber on a vote of 14-4.

The measure, which Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced, will cease to exist once a new CNMI budget is enacted for fiscal year 2020, which starts on Oct. 1, 2019.

H.B. 21-56 hopes to avoid further fiscal crisis and deficit spending, while also assisting all branches of the government to prioritize needs until the new budget passes.

Reps. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan), Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted no to the bill.

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and his fellow Saipan independent representatives, Joseph Flores and Edmund Villagomez, joined the majority in supporting the bill. Reps. Antonio Borja (R-Tinian) and Marco Peter (R-Saipan) were absent.

Yumul said he knows H.B. 21-56, which also passed with amendments, would be unpopular but said that this is one way of addressing the current financial situation of the Commonwealth.

Propst introduced a floor amendment that protects certain agencies from having their budgets reprogrammed.

That protection extends to the Legislature and Judiciary, municipal mayors and councils, autonomous or semi-autonomous agencies and public corporations, the Public School System, the Northern Marianas College, the Public Auditor's Office, the Office of the Attorney General, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The bill now goes to the Senate and there might also be amendments there.

"[H.B. 21-56] is something that we offered right now with the administration. We saw this as necessary due to our current financial situation. And the bill would only last until Sept. 30," said Yumul.

He added the Ways and Means Committee is just being proactive. "Ways and Means members had not gotten any notice in regards to meetings with the [Torres] administration, Finance Department, and the Office of Management and Budget. I just want to let the other members know that we are being more proactive in light of what's going on."

"Our agreement is that one of us [Ways and Means member] must always be present in that meeting so we know exactly what's going on, so we can convey things to each agency. Now, Ways and Means is trying to fill the gap, by sending one of us to attend budget meetings with the administration.

Opposing views

Sablan said she was torn over H.B. 21-56 but pointed out

that the CNMI government is in this position "because this administration failed to timely and accurately notify [everyone] of our true state of our resources, to advise them [agencies and departments] as to exactly how much each would expect for the rest of the year. You heard it today, in the public comments, [the Public School System] does not know how much they have for the rest of the year, and this is true across our government."

She accused the Torres administration of financial mismanagement, irresponsibility, and lack of transparency.

During the public comments, Selina Babauta said the significance of reprogramming cannot be overlooked. "This bill as it is written can be perceived as virtually taking substantial powers of government under a single office, the Governor's Office.

"This bill as it is written opens up the propensity to divert funds other than what it was originally designated for," she said.

She added Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has become elusive and untruthful. "We are all hearing of cut backs, talks of possible layoffs, Senate shutdown, and austerity measures happening before our eyes and yet, we have not seen the administration come out, not even in the media, to explain what is going on."

"Not only is he [Torres] ignoring the requests of the Legislature for complete and open financial information about where we are in terms

D&Q Warriors tops SCC's Corporate Challenge

The team of D&Q was named the overall champion at this year's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Corporate Challenge. The D&Q Warriors also walked away with two individual prizes in the game portion.

This year's Corporate Challenge was held on June 2, at Minatchom Atdao in Susupe, with nine company teams going head to head to compete for the title of Corporate Challenge "Survivor" champions.

The overall 1st Runner Up trophy was awarded to Team DFS. The team is no stranger to the winners' circle, having won overall champions in 2014 and 2015.

Besides D&Q and Team DFS, the other teams that competed were Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc, IT&E Saipan, Joeten Motors "Frontiers," First Hawaiian Bank "2X Faster," Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, last year first runner-up Delta Management "Delta Force," and defending champion Triple J Saipan.

This year's theme—



The Delta Force team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Survivor"—focused on celebrating the resiliency and resourcefulness of CNMI businesses post-Super Typhoon Yutu and with the economic challenges that followed.

The annual Corporate Challenge pushes company teams to work collaboratively and creatively to get

through different challenges and obstacles. The goal is to provide an outlet for creativity, team-building, and company wellness in order to reinvest in the staff.

In the "Survivor Chant" contest, "Delta Force" stole the show with their rap set to the tune of *Hard Knock Life*, earning them the "Best Com-

pany Performance."

In the Tug-O-War, a staple game in the Corporate Challenge, all teams went head to head and Team Triple J, D&Q Warriors, Joeten "Frontiers," MarPac, and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort advanced to the second round. The second round ended with MarPac, D&Q Warriors, and Laolao advancing to the third round. The final round was between D&Q Warriors and MarPac. It took just 15 seconds for D&Q Warriors to claim the title of "2019 Tug-O-Warriors."

In the Relay Race "Fall in Line," IT&E clocked in the quickest time, earning them the title of "2019 Relay Slayers."

D&Q Warriors completed the Obstacle Course ("Super-Typhoon Readiness") in the fastest time, earning them the title of "2019 Obstacle Conquerors."

Other awards that were given were "Best Company Identity" and "Best Company Tent." This year, Team Captains were heavily involved in the scoring process.



The IT&E Relay Slayers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Voted by their peers for having the "Best Company Identity" was Delta Force.

Also awarded to Delta Force by their peers was "Best Company Tent." Delta Force created a miniature version of their shell stations.

Delta Force was also the overall winners for the 2019 Spirit Award. This award is

given to the team that exemplifies and inspires company values.

Overall winners enjoyed prize packages inclusive of donations from Chamber members.

The champions also received a six-month membership under the President's Circle of the Chamber. (PR)



The overall 1st Runner Up trophy is awarded to Team DFS.

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Apatang: We're still picking up Yutu debris

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office continues to pick up Super Typhoon Yutu debris along the roads of the island.

Over seven months after Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan, the Saipan Mayor's Office continues to pick up debris using local resources, said David M. Apatang

on Monday.

However, the only way they would pick up the debris and drop it at the Marpi site for processing is if it were segregated properly per debris type.

"We will not pick up debris that are mixed because the landfill will not accept those," he said.

The debris piles should be segregated based on material,

which means separate piles for roofing tins, lumber, and green waste such as branches, leaves, and the like.

"Do not mix trash. We will not pick that up," he said. "... Separate them and then call our office."

The mayor noted that his office uses their trailers every day to pick up the debris to bring them to the staging area in Marpi.

"I am asking the public...if you want us to help you, you need to help us out too. Do not mix all the [debris]," he said, adding that the office would not touch household trash as well.

"We will continue to pick up debris as long as people cooperate," Apatang noted.

The Saipan Mayor's Office has already collected 102,404

cubic yards of waste all over Saipan from Oct. 26, 2018, up to Feb. 2, 2019.



Apatang

According to Apatang, his office has not stopped doing so even when using local resources. To put that into perspective, a sedan is about two to four cubic meters.

Apatang noted that the ongoing austerity measures has had minimal, but felt, effect on the Mayor's Office debris

pickup project.

"We try to work around the austerity measures," he said, adding that his office would follow Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' directive to implement a 72-hour pay period.

"We would try to do what we can from Monday to Thursday," he said, adding that marital services and other services would still be offered on Fridays.

"As long as we have fuel and communication, our office would be okay," he said.

Cuccinelli is acting USCIS director

WASHINGTON—Kenneth T. Cuccinelli has been named the acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services effective June 10, 2019.

Cuccinelli will lead an agency of 19,000 employees and contractors who are responsible for administering the U.S. immigration system.

In fiscal year 2018, USCIS adjudicated more than 8.7 million requests for immigration benefits.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead [USCIS] at this critical time and serve alongside this agency's dedicated workforce," said Cuccinelli in a statement yesterday.

"Our nation has the most generous legal immigration

system in the world and we must zealously safeguard its promise for those who lawfully come here.

"I look forward to working with the men and women of USCIS to ensure our legal immigration system operates effectively and efficiently while deterring fraud and protecting the American people," he added.

Acting Department of Homeland Security secretary Kevin McAleenan announced Cuccinelli's appointment yesterday.

Cuccinelli previously served as Virginia's attorney general from 2010 to 2014. During his time as attorney general, he led the Commonwealth in fighting human

trafficking. Additionally, he led efforts resulting in record enforcement against gangs, health care fraud, and child predators. Cuccinelli also served in the Senate of Virginia from 2002 to 2010 and has practiced law for nearly 25 years.

Cuccinelli earned a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Virginia, a law degree from Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, and a master's degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University.

Cuccinelli and his wife, Teiro, grew up and live in Virginia and have seven children. (PR)

Samoa bans Elton John movie 'Rocketman'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The Pacific nation of Samoa has banned the Elton John biopic *Rocketman* because of its depictions of homosexuality.

About 97% of people in Samoa identify as Christian, and the society is generally considered conservative and traditional. Under Samoa's

2013 Crimes Act, sodomy is deemed an offense that is punishable by up to seven years in prison, even if both parties consent.

Samoa's principal censor Leiatua Niuapu Faaui told the *Samoa Observer* that the homosexual activity depicted on screen violated laws and didn't sit well with the

country's cultural and Christian beliefs.

The movie examines John's sexuality and relationship with then-manager John Reid. It stars Taron Egerton who does his own singing as John in the musical fantasy that aims to capture the essence of the musician's life.



ROAD MISHAP

An accident possibly involving three vehicles occurred late Monday afternoon along Beach Road. Although not confirmed by police, it is presumed that the cars were being driven by tourists, as most Mustang cars in the CNMI are owned by rental firms.

ERWIN ENCINARES

CMS donates \$5K to Joeten golf tourney



File photo shows employees of Construction Material Supply Inc. posing for a souvenir picture.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Construction Material Supply Inc. has donated \$5,000 cash for the upcoming 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, a fundraiser scheduled for June 22 at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course.

"We would like to thank CMS for their support, since the success of our event is dependent on generous donations such as this," according to tournament chair Peter

"Dung" Tenorio


The four different sponsorship packages are Founder's Club (\$5,000), Trustees' Club (\$2,500), Eagle Club (\$1,000), and Friends of JCF (\$999 and below).

Scoring will be Stroke Play, Low Gross format. Senior/Ladies Flight will be scored Low Net. First-, second-, and third-place winners in each flight divisions will each re-


ceive prizes.

Hole-in-ones can win you a Nissan Titan, Honda Ridgeline, Kia Soul GT, or \$10,000 cash. The tournament will also be followed by an awards banquet and raffle draw, with more chances to win amazing prizes.

For more info contact Tenorio at 234-5562 or via email at joetenmgc@joeten.com. (PR)



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: DPW/VAO19-RFP-005

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETARY EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

THE RFP PACKAGE AND SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JUNE 12, 2019** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN. A NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT OF FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) IS REQUIRED FOR EACH SET. PAYMENT MUST BE MADE TO THE CNMI TREASURER AND A RECEIPT OF PAYMENT MUST BE PRESENTED WHEN OBTAINING THE SCOPE OF WORK AT THE DPW TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. ANTHONY A. CAMACHO, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION**, 2ND FLOOR OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 08, 2019.**

A **PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** IS SCHEDULED FOR **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 26, 2019** AT THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR CONFERENCE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, JUAN A. SABLAN MEMORIAL BUILDING.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

\$50K bail set for alleged 'ice' trafficker

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court set Monday a bail of \$50,000 for a man who was allegedly caught trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$50,000 cash bail for Fernando Cadag Jr. who was allegedly caught selling "ice" worth

\$100 during a sting operation.

Cadag's bail was initially set at \$100,000 but Govendo decided against maintaining the bail, after Cadag's lawyer, chief public defender Doug Hartig, argued that Cadag was caught after a single transaction only.

Cadag's preliminary hearing is on June 17; he will be arraigned on June 24.

According to court information, Cadag, a Filipino male, is charged with one count of trafficking of a controlled substance. The allegations against him state that he was caught on March 7, 2018, during a sting operation by the Drug Enforcement Task Force, which used a cooperating source.

At 2:09pm that day, a recorded phone conversation be-

tween the cooperating source and Cadag alleged that they agreed to meet at the Saipan Vegas Hotel where they'd ride together in Cadag's vehicle to his home in Susupe where they'd

get his supply of "ice." Later that day, at 3:01pm, the cooperating source met with DETF officers and turned over a small baggie containing a crystalline substance, which later tested for

methamphetamine.

Officers noted that Cadag had his 2-year-old son with him when he and the cooperating source made the transaction.

MHS Glee Club performs yearend school concert

Marianas High School Glee Club performed their last concert for the school year last June 3 at the MHS cafeteria.

Despite the delays from Super Typhoon Yutu, student director Clarisse Torio said she didn't want to "end this school year without doing a show."

Despite the challenges after the typhoon, club members continued rehearsals and kept performing at different events. They also practiced for their last concert for about a month to "keep the club alive."

"Every member loves being in glee," Torio said. "It's not just singing. [We're] expressing our feelings through...music."

The other members of the club are: Mikaella Cunanan, Lesly Ibarra, Jenine Perena, Alexa Dumagan, Macy Manzanares, Sydney Manzanares, Angela Barbo, Donna Galvez, Sommer Gomez, Katrina Guevarra, Juliet Inocencio, Samila Sevugan, Brent Espineda, Gio Sagana, Clayton Izuka, Matthew Manuel, James Reyes, Jefferson Cunanan, Kristian Itaas, and Ethan Mresbang.

Torio is also a graduating high school senior, and will be attending Columbia College Chicago for a musical theatre degree.

The MHS Glee Club will be competing at the 2019 Inter-



REICA RAMIREZ

MHS Glee Club student director Clarisse Torio performs *Why We Sing* by Greg Gilpin.



REICA RAMIREZ

Members of MHS Glee Club pose for a photo.

national Thespian Festival at Lincoln, Nebraska this summer. *(Reica Ramirez)*

Judge OKs \$19.5K payment to Settlement Fund trustee

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has approved the payment of \$19,563 to the Settlement Fund's trustee for professional services and expenses incurred for the last five months.

Tydingco-Gatewood also granted trustee representative Joyce C. H. Tang's petition for release of \$5,530, which represents the 10-percent retainer withheld from its invoices for services rendered and expenses incurred from April to November in 2018.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she has reviewed the trustee's invoices for January to May this year and finds the request for compensation and reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable.

"The court is satisfied with the work performed by the trustee during this time frame," said the judge as she

ordered the Settlement Fund on Monday to pay the trustee \$17,633.

This amount, Tydingco-Gatewood said, represents 90 percent of the trustee's professional fees and all expenses incurred from December 2018 through April 2019.

She said the invoices were dated January to May 2019.

The Settlement Fund was ordered to hold in trust to the credit of the trustee \$1,930, which represents 10 percent of the trustee's professional fees for this time period.

The trustee may petition for release of this 10-percent retainer every quarter, subject to the court's satisfaction of the trustee's work and any objections to the trustee's compensation requests.

Last January, Tang was paid \$50,851 for her services from May to December last year. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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To all nurses in the CNMI:

The work that you do every day greatly impacts the lives of countless individuals. It is for these and many other reasons that we are forever indebted to you all.

We salute you and the families you leave behind just so that you can provide care for others.

We celebrate you every day.

THANK YOU and SI YU'US MA'ASE for all that you do for the people of the CNMI.

Happy Nurses Week!

From the NMI Board of Nursing

Lack of autopsy expert has 'so far' not affected DPS

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The recent retirement of the only forensic pathologist in the Marianas, Dr. Aurelio Espinola, does affect the CNMI since it relied on his services for forensic autopsies, but his absence has, for the moment, spared the Department of Public Safety from being put in a tight spot.

In a brief interview with DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, he said that the department has always been affected by not having a forensic pathologist who is actually based in the CNMI, even more so now that there is no one based in the Marianas.

Fortunately, Pangelinan added, recent cases on the

islands have not needed the attention of a forensic pathologist.

"But we are grateful that the Attorney General's Office is able to help DPS find a doctor from the Commonwealth Health Center to make preliminary assessments for any death investigations. However, this is only preliminary as the doctor(s) are not forensic pathologists," he said.

According to a source, preliminary investigations are being spearheaded by Dr. Philip Dauterman, who is a pathologist based on Saipan.

Dauterman also travels to Guam on occasion to assist with death investigations there when needed.

Currently, the search for a forensic pathologist, a person who specializes in medical examination of a corpse and determining its cause of death, continues for the Marianas because the closest forensic pathologist is based in Hawaii.

Espinola has been Guam's chief medical examiner for 23 years. He retired on Jan. 31,

2019, at the age of 77.

In his years as chief medical examiner, Espinola has also traveled frequently to the CNMI to perform autopsies

when needed.

According to an online source, Espinola holds a medical degree and a law degree. He was also board certified

in obstetrics-gynecology, anesthesiology, and forensic pathology.

Espinola also served as deputy medical examiner

for Harris County, Texas, and served as a medical examiner in Guam for two years before he became the chief medical examiner.

Da'ok students learn about deep-sea fishing



By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several Da'ok Academy students learned the basics of deep-sea fishing over the weekend during the second week of a pilot program called "Tasi to Table."

A partnership between the Saipan Fishermen Association and Public School System's Da'ok Academy, the second week of the fishing program taught about 10 members of the school's fishing club how to tie trolling lures as well

as orient them on the type of equipment used in deep-sea fishing.

Convening at a former Public School System building on Capital Hill, members of Team Benavente—named after former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente—and the team's other members, Department of Labor Secretary Victoria "Vicky" Guerrero and Scott Schular, presented to club members how to properly mix and match lures to their baits and what specific colors catch the eyes

of the deep-sea fish.

"We talked about the species that we go after in deep-sea fishing, which is out in the open ocean," Diego Benavente said in a later interview. That includes skipjack tuna, wahoo, mahi, yellowfin tuna, and even the elusive blue marlin.

"We talked about where to find these fish, what is the best time to go out there, what lures we would use, boat speed, and one thing I like to cover is how to bring the fish onto the boat safely to

Former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, who is a fishing enthusiast, demonstrates how to prepare trolling bait for Da'ok Academy students over the weekend.

ERWIN ENCINARES

take home," he added.

"Our experience today is to get to know the children since it is our first time meeting with them and give them an idea of what we do," Schular told *Saipan Tribune*. "We also told them of the dangers of the kind of fishing we do, as well as its benefits."

The students are excited to apply what they've learned by the end of the five-week program.

"...When they gave us this opportunity [to fish in the open sea], I was [amazed]. ...They are giving us this opportunity? I want to try it!" Da'ok fishing club president Alvaughna Pua said. "I am excited to find out what kind of fish we can catch out there."

As for her takeaways from the course so far, she said, "I learned different things about our reefs, our fishes, and even [boating] safety."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free probate workshop on Carolinian inheritance
Micronesian Legal Services Corporation will be presenting Probate Workshop #6 on Refaluwasch/Carolinian inheritance on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 3pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshop is open to the public and free of charge. Materials will be distributed. For more information call the MLSC Marianas office at 234-7729. (PR)

SHRM meeting to tackle EQ in the workplace

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter invites the public to its general membership meeting on June 20, 2019, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's beginning at 11am.

The meeting will feature University of Guam's Dr. John Rivera discussing emotional intelligence in the workplace.

The presentation includes Giovanni's lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 19-DPS-096**

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 18, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) VESSELS AND ACCESSORIES WITHOUT
ENGINES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net | Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the BPL/HCPLB Conference Room, Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/13/19)
- Public Comments
- Chairperson's Report
- Director's Report
 - Physician Residency Application
 - Denial Letter to applicant (S.Seno-Dental Hygiene)
 - Hearing Officer for Pending Case # 19-001
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - Governor's Office
 - Board Term (Dr. Warren L. Creed)
 - 72 Hour Work Schedule (Austerity)
 - Legislature
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Propose Clinical Psychologist and Substance Abuse Counselors Regulations
 - Propose Language for Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy Regulation (§ 140-50.3-2615)
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - New Applications
 - J.Danan (Radiologic Technologist)
 - G.Dimitris (Physician)
 - Renewal Applications
 - Hold for Discussions
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- Announcements
 - Next Meeting Date
 - Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**
Jose M. Sablan Building, Civic Center Susupe, P.O. Box 500791 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-9001 Facsimile: (670) 664-9019

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that all vehicles that were impounded by the Department of Public Safety up until the time of this notice will be released to their owners at no charge. You may pick up your vehicle within 30 days of the date of this notice. Vehicles impounded as part of an ongoing investigation will not be released without prior clearance from the Office of the Attorney General and/or the CNMI Courts.

All charges related to the impounding of the vehicle, with the exception of towing fees charged by an outside company, will be waived. Any vehicle that is not claimed within the 30 day time period will be considered abandoned and may be sold and/or disposed of by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government.

The vehicle may be retrieved by the following:

- 1) Legal Owner;
- 2) Registered Owner;
- 3) A person authorized by the registered owner on a form provided by the Department of Public Safety;
- 4) Any person in possession of a court order requiring the release of the vehicle.

You will need valid personal identification and proof of vehicle ownership before you will be permitted to retrieve your vehicle. Please contact the DPS Impound Lot at 322-5421 or Sgt. Roy Kaipat at 285-5599 to make the necessary arrangements.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.gov.mp Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Financial Affairs Committee will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, second floor of the Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Roll Call
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes – June 5, 2019
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS:**
 1. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation-CPA Omnibus Settlement Agreement
 2. Financial Status
 3. Committee Report
 4. Draft Fiscal Year 2020 Budget
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

ROMAN T. TUDELA,
COMMITTEE CHAIR

NMI schools turns focus on digital learning

About 15 teachers from both the Public School System and private schools attended a full-day workshop last June 1 at Kanoa Resort to learn more about the e-learning program, or the Student e-Learning Gateway, which offers online high school courses.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, PSS director of instruction technology, said the program supports nearly 2,000 students annually.

“We’re always excited to convene with our e-teachers. They’re the backbone of the success of the program,” he said.

Cruz worked with PSS’ Lorraine Catienza in leading the workshop.

“It’s important to gather and reflect on our practices, especially those that are instructional, and set goals that will help our student more effectively learn online,” Cruz added.

The digital learning workshop was primarily held to further improve PSS distance learning and its planning.

The program’s mission is “to provide access to quality online education experiences to support digital learners across the CNMI,” while the program’s vision is for PSS to “aspire to be a digital learning community that inspires students to become independent and interconnected learners.”

“The Distance Program is committed to continuous improvement. Each year we work with our e-teachers to assess a range of data that includes student course evaluation. We use the input of the students we serve to refine and improve our offerings to ensure quality teaching and learning,” Catienza noted in a statement. *(Erwin Encinares)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

About 15 teachers from both the Public School System and private schools pose with workshop facilitators Dr. Bobby Cruz and Lorraine Catienza last June 1 at Kanoa Resort.

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Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 117 D 08 and Lot 117 D 14 containing an area of approximately 15,426 square meters, more or less, situated in Puerto Rico, Saipan. Copies of the location of the parcels are available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
- The prospective lessee is Saipan Stevedore Company Inc. The list of officers for Saipan Stevedore Company Inc. are Mr. Norman T. Tenorio, as President, Mr. Peter Michael P. Tenorio, as Vice-President, Mr. Clarence T. Tenorio, as Secretary/Treasurer and Mr. Michael T. Demapan, as General Manager and Mr. Lee Christopher Cabrera, as Assistant General Manager.
- The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc., mainly Mr. Michael T. Demapan and Mr. Lee Christopher Cabrera.
- The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of chasis, equipments and container storage.
The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.
The proposed annual rental during the term of each lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Puerto Rico, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before June 21, 2019 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU



Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannānā'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas. Maseha hayi na pattida ni intirisao gi halum henerat pupbluku siha muna'halum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniuñ kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Kumu mapribeni mas mo' na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinatititiy pettanešin na infotmasion manisista para u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi kumu Lot 117 D 08 yan Lot 117 D 14 ni konsisiti kasi 15,426 square meters, mas pat menus, ni gaigi gi Puerto Rico, giya Saipan. I kopian pattin i lugat managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion
- I prospective lessee i Saipan Stevedore Company Inc. Ilistan nu i ufisiat siha para i Saipan Stevedore Company Inc. si Sinot Norman T. Tenorio, kumu Presidenti, Sinot Peter Michael P. Tenorio, kumu Sigundu na Presidenti, Sinot Clarence T. Tenorio, kumu Sekretariu/Tresurariu yan Sinot Michael T. Demapan, kumu General Manager yan si Sinot Lee Christopher Cabrera, kumu Assistant General Manager.
- I maproponi na atkilon na tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan manegosiu ginin i ufisiat yan direktot nu i Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc., mayutmentu ginin as Sinot Michael T. Demapan yan si Sinot Lee Christopher Cabrera.
- I lessee debi na u usa i lugat put atyu ha' na rason nu i chasis, aparatos siha yan sagan pine'lun kosas.
I tema nu i mapropoina kontratan atkilon sa benti singku (25) ānus na tiempu.
I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' sakkān gi durantin i teman i kontratan atkilon mapega gi pusentu nu i balin appraised fair market i propiedat yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.
- I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontratan Atkilon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Sekretarian, Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
- I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku taya marisibi ni hafa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Puerto Rico, Saipan.
- I Sekretarian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku ha aksesepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniuñ kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisao na pattida siha gi pat antis gi Hunio 21, 2019 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sāngi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mangemangil rebwe atkilaay akkaaw faluweer toulap ilol Seipel, Commonwealth Teel Falu kka Efang ilol Marianas. Schóokka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngareangiingi reel pommwol atkiloónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sāngi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorongol ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkateewow.

- Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkilaay e bwaálóbwe Lot 117 D 08 me Lot 117 D 14 ebwebwáá-bwe 15,426 reel square meters, elapeló ngare eghus, iye e lo Puerto Rico, Seipel. Eyoor pappidil faluw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me websitē www.dpl.gov.mp ngare u mwuschel amwuri.
- Schóól Atkiloón nge Saipan Stevedore Company Inc. Officers nge Mr. Norman T. Tenorio, igha ii President, Mr. Peter Michael P. Tenorio, igha ii Vice President, Mr. Clarence T. Tenorio, igha ii Sekkretóriyo/Treasurer me Mr. Michael T. Demapan, igha ii General Manager me Mr. Lee Christopher Cabrera, igha ii Assistant General Manager.
- Pommwol Atkiloón nge e compliant ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL e ppwol sāngi officers me directors sāngi Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc., spesiatmente Mr. Michael T. Demapan me Mr. Lee Christopher Cabrera.
- Schóól Atkiloón ebwe yááyá faluw bwulul chasis, peiráagh me liliyal isiisil pisegh.
Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkiloón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
Pommwol atkiloónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel percentage sāngi appraised fair market value reel faluw ebwal schuulong applicable percentage reel Business Gross Receipts ilol mwóghutughutúl DPL.
- Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkiloón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipel; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, aplórnwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngare 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyol. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
- Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap resé bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli Atkiloón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Puerto Rico, Seipel.
- Sekkretóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngare pommw iye re siiweli sāngi schóokka re mwuschel wóol ngaremmwalil Unnyo 21, 2019 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipel, Luuta, ngare Tchiliyol.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Motivation matters in census question

The proposal to add a question about citizenship to the 2020 U.S. Census is reprehensible in any light. It will intimidate undocumented immigrants from responding and will deny Americans a true count of the people living in our nation's borders.

Recently discovered writings of the late Republican strategist Thomas B. Hofeller, who was behind the administration's push to add the question, managed to show the motivation in an even worse light. They establish its roots in a political calculation "advantageous to Republicans and Non-Hispanic Whites" and make a fresh examination necessary. Although the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments about the citizenship question back in April, the justices must pause and take this linkage into account before deciding whether the question can remain part of the census.

Too much of American governance relies on an accurate census to allow cynical politics to manipulate the clean count the Constitution requires. A decision that shrugs off this new evidence would further undermine public faith in the court at a time when its once-prized reputation is turning dim.

A federal district judge this month set out a timeline for carefully evaluating the documents found on Hofeller's computer by his daughter. Under the normal schedule, the U.S. Census form would need to be settled for printing by July 1. But the Trump administration has forced an extraordinary predicament upon the courts and the nation, and ordinary considerations should be set aside.

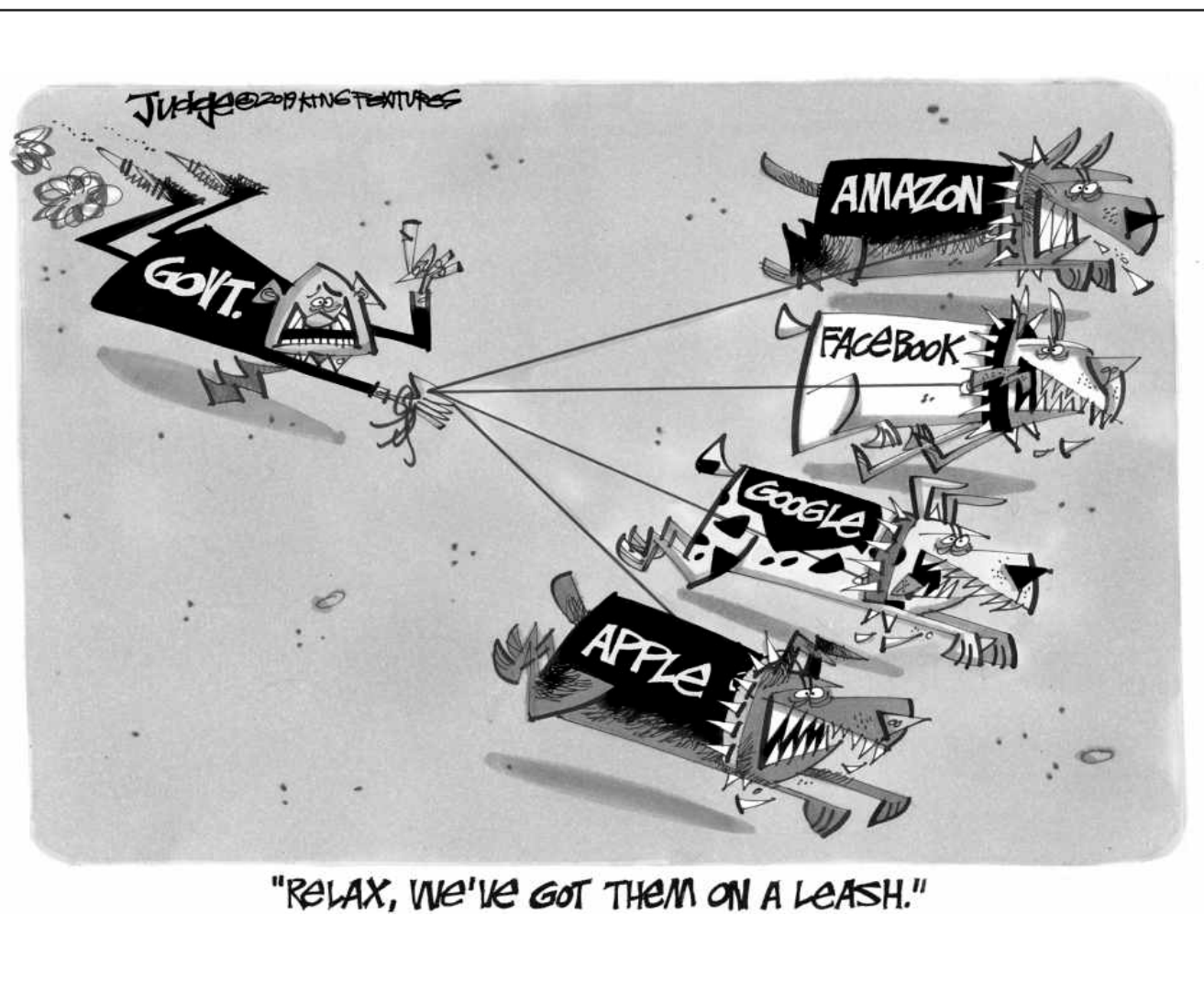
Printing can wait. An inaccurate and politically tilted census count will have consequences for years, perhaps decades.

The potential harm of proceeding is stated straightforwardly in Hofeller's writings. Questioning citizenship on the census will deter noncitizen residents from coming forward—an understandable choice in a time of ramped-up deportations. Each state will then be drawing its congressional districts based on an inaccurate count. The consultant studied Texas, where most noncitizen residents are Latino and live in Democratic-leaning areas, a pattern common across the country.

The census won't change the number of seats in Congress, but its count determines how those seats are parceled out among the states. A low count in a Latino area means its congressional district will include a larger piece of the map, sequestering voters to dilute their political voice. Under a complete count, those voters would be distributed among other districts, rather than concentrated into one.

The U.S. Census is too important to be used as a power grab. The revelation of the consultant's writings gives the lie to the Trump administration's dubious claim the census question is added to help the Voting Rights Act protect the political strength of minorities. The nation now can see plainly that the citizenship question is a mechanism to redistribute congressional power unevenly. If the Supreme Court shrugs that aside, the clamor to restructure—and further politicize—the highest court in the nation will grow ever louder, and justifiably so.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times



Does reality change ideas, or vice versa?

The intellectual right is in the middle of a huge brouhaha, as some prominent right-wing commentators celebrate what they believe is the end of the "conservative consensus" around classical liberalism—free markets, limited government, the sovereignty of the individual and even in some cases free expression. Fox News' Tucker Carlson recently lauded progressive Sen. Elizabeth Warren's economic program, to the cheers of a host of conservatives who now consider themselves advocates for something called "economic nationalism."

While I'm friends with many of these people, including Carlson, and respect many of the others (though certainly not all), I think this is barmy codswallop.

But as I've written a great deal about the singular necessity of free markets, limited government and classical liberalism—recently at book length—I feel like coming at this from a different direction. This argument really isn't new, and there's no reason to think it's going away anytime soon, particularly so long as Donald Trump is in office and conservative intellectuals feel the need to bend their ideas to his actions or exploit his popularity (on the right) for the ideas they've long held.

Instead, it's worth thinking about how to think about such things.

It's axiomatic that intellectuals like to deal with ideas. Ideas are to the intellectual what paint is to the painter and stone is to the mason. And ideas are supremely important. As the late Irving Kristol said, "What rules the world is ideas, because ideas define the way reality is perceived."

I believe that. But reality—i.e., the physical realm we live in—is often what brings new ideas to the fore. We certainly understand this in the world of science. Newton, Einstein and Edison had ideas, and those ideas changed reality in ways that changed our ideas.

Ever since the word "conservative" has had any meaning, conservatives have complained about moral licentiousness. Where they once complained about rising hemlines, they now complain about widespread pornography or celebrity sex tapes. As a conservative myself, I share some of those complaints. But what's often left out of the conversation is the role technology plays in changing how we think about such things.

In the 1920s, conservatives complained about foreign ideas corrupting the youth, as if licentiousness was some virus that escaped a lab in Paris and was brought home by returning soldiers. Left out of the conversation, for the most part, was the fact that one the great drivers of the rise in out-of-wedlock births (and

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg's latest book, *Suicide of the West*, is now available wherever books are sold. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by e-mail at goldbergcolumn@gmail.com, or via Twitter @JonahNRO.



shotgun weddings) in the 1920s was the widespread introduction of the automobile. Suddenly, teenagers had a much easier time escaping the prying eyes of parents and neighbors.

I have no objection to the claim that ideas played an important role in changing attitudes about sex. The problem is when you think the idea is the sum of the problem. Intellectuals tend to think this way because it's fun to argue with Voltaire or Simone de Beauvoir. It's more difficult to argue with a Buick. These intellectuals become like the drunk who only looks for his lost car keys under the street lamp because the light is better there.

The birth control pill has surely done more to create a culture of recreational sex than all of the writings of Alfred Kinsey and feminist intellectuals combined. Good luck trying to get rid of the pill.

Of course, this isn't just a dynamic on the right. One of the vexing problems for supporters of unalloyed abortion rights is that technology—from in-utero MRI to miraculous innovations in neonatal care—is making the claim that late-stage fetuses are merely "uterine contents" or some other dehumanizing euphemism less plausible to millions of Americans.

Many of the promoters of "economic nationalism" on the left and right, including Trump, cling to outdated ideas about how industry works. Manufacturing in the United States isn't in decline; manufacturing jobs are, because technology replaces human labor with machine labor. Even if tariffs brought our factories home from Mexico and China (a dubious proposition), most of the jobs "brought back" will go to machines. Raising the minimum wage certainly helps some workers, but it also encourages employers to replace other workers with automation and other technologies.

Among the myriad dangers in all of this is that intellectuals think they can somehow plan and direct the consequences of technological innovation to achieve a society that fits their theories about how everyone should live. That's not easy in an authoritarian society. It's not possible in a free one.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, village address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Maribahan ekonomia

Tumunug ekonomia rumibaha kontodu fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. Este umafuetsas inali'e man-ma'gas para umadisidi kuantu para uma-utut gi kada depattamentun yan ahensian gobietnu. Todu ramas man-inafekta nu i tumunug moneda.

Presisu na disision mientras ke guaha fitme na inadahe gi mas man-presisu siha na setbisiun publiku tat kumu himelu' yan edukasion. Ha gacha' hit lokue' ha'ilas enteru elmundu. Debi ta usune haf' guaha gi hilu' kritikata na inadahe.

Poresu i paha na palabra: Utut! Maseha manu guatu puru pot utut fondu gi katkuet ahensia yan depattamentu. Dios mihu bidaña i tiempun ha'ilas!

Saludu para todun man-sattun na manehanten fondun publiku ni pumupulan sopblanten fondu. Puede muna'lu tatte fitme na pisun ekonomia ni fumañañagu fiñkas yan cho'chu'. Sin este mas chatsaga na karera.

Petlas: I natibu tai kuttura bisnis. Inana'e i establisau na kustumbre guine deste antigu na tiempu. Este na kustumbre finaña-gun dikiki' na komunidan isla. Inestablesen nesessidat satbasion.

Pot dikiki' komunidan isla mina' sattun i dinaña' yan in-ayuda gi natibu. Tat ti sumaunau man-ayuda gi oran nesessidat. Mañgontentu hit gi ayudu ni tana'e maseha haye na prohimu-ta. Kustumbren dikiki' na isla! Namagof i gineftau tautauta.

Inana'e: Man-ana'e bisinu kineni' guihan, katnen babue yan guaka, yan kinisechan gualu' kontodu gulusina. Mangeftau. Este na gineftau sumimientu mas hihot na relasion bisinu siha. Mansuette hit na metgut este na sensia gi tautauta.

Hu hassu cho'chu' fandañgu gi bisinu. Motmut ayudu deste muñgayu, kusina, hotnu yan mapunu' mandañkulu na ga'ga siha.

Huli'e este masusede gi hiniben-hu. Ayu na tiempu sumen metgut sensian koperasion gi tautauta siha. Maseha dididi' maliñgu i kustumbre na tiempu gaige ha' sensianta umekstende kanaña gi prohimuta.

Namagof i fitme yan geftau na sensian inana'e yan inagofli'e gi unu yan todun! Ma'ug na kustumbren tanu'!

Man-ñiñge': Hu akanteha, pot para bai komprende, signifkasion man-ñiñge kumu kustumbren tanu' guine siha na petlas. Hu supone na kustumbren Española pot respetu gi man-amku' ni ma-adapta ni natibu deste ayu na tiempu.

I benefisiu gaige gi inestablesen fitme na respetu entalu' patgon yan amku'. Tinatiye ni bendision felisitasion. Ala kuenta bendision espirituat ma-impatta pot hoben ya puede felis hinanau i patgon. Ha pañgun pattisipasion halum inetnun.

Sumen amtau kinalamten famaguon 'nai pribeni mañan satbahe. Kontodu i mañaina felis hinasson niha pot makreansa mauleg kada unu gi tropa. Na fan man-ñiñge' pot para tana' fitme sensian hinimiddi yan respetu giya siha.

Bendision: Manfiet mañainata gi ma-adelantan linala' espirituat gi famaguon niha. Deste matatpañge, primet komunon, makonfitma, estake madiñgu i pettan sanmena gaige motmut na bendision ginen mañainan niha.

Hu hassu mana' fan bisita gi pueñgen konfitmasion gi naftan tatahu. Kase pot bendision ginen i amku' ayu na bisitasion tinagu' patlinuhu. Magofyu'.

Ha echayu' bendision i amku' guihe na pueñge gi guinefihu. Agradesimientu!

I mas impottante na patte gi bendision 'nai ha pañgun sensian hinimiddi giya hita. Fitme na respetu ma-establese deste primet biahe 'nai tumekun hau man-ñiñge'.

Petmanente sumaga ayu na sensian respetu giya hagu! Namagof i sensian respetu gi anaku' na karera yan relasiona yan man-prohimuta siha. Bendision!

Yine'ase': Sensian yine'ase' yan gineftau pumañgun sensian kilisyau giya hita. I nina'ita sumignifika na ta komprende pinadese yan finapus tautau. Hana magem siñienteghu i sensian yine'a'se' gi tautauta siha.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Huñgan, guaha gi tautauta man-namase' ni munesessita ayudu. Listuyu' manna'e gi este na chinatsaga. Hu komprende haf' fina'pus popple pot ginen ennau-yu' na katsada.

Na fan geftau hamyu gi man-namase'! Ti un' faliñgu 'nai un-na' anaku' kanaimu man-ayuda. I tanu' ridondu. Dañkulu na regalu mafattu gi geftau!

Komplimentu: Mafnas kustumbren komplimentu 'nai magutus uttimu finihu antes de kasamientu. Uttimu huli'e este machogue gi finagpu' siñkuenta siha na sakan. Taya' 'nai huli'e esta deste ayu na tiempu.

Namagof na dinaña' dos familia—nobiu yan nobia—antes de u talag halum i dos patgon gi sagan guinefe (atat). Este na pueñge 'nai oppan sinsiyu na ekspressiun konfitmasion ginen todo atmos banda. Namagof na okasion!

Japones: Hu husga haf' motibu na humuyung bisnis Japones ginen Marianas. Maliñgu paku \$14 biyon 'nai dumaña' yan gas-tun mofona na dos pagyu gi uttimun ma'pus na sakan. Hu huñgug na ta gastaye utguyu i los probes mina' man-hanau tatte Japon.

Mas fote i pagyun maribahan ekonomia pot kontra kualidat linala' tautauta siha guine. Dos ensegidas maliñgu: fiñkas yan cho'chu'. Dudayu' kau siña ta soda'e katsun \$14 biyon pesos na maliñgu. Hombre pa'gu un' palabra 'nai man-gatdun hit: Utut! Dios mihu!

Wespac needs to be fully investigated

Editor's Note: The following is an editorial that Hawaii-based Civil Beat published yesterday, June 10, 2019 (<https://www.civil-beat.org/2019/06/wespac-fisheries-management-council-needs-to-be-fully-investigated/>)

Secretive funds and wasteful projects. Conflicts of interest and political favoritism. Limited oversight and stonewalling administrators.

Civil Beat's recent three-part series "Reeling It In," which helps lift the heavy lid on the murky operations of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, raises as many questions as it answers about a vital government agency that has swayed from its core mission.

Among other alarming discoveries the series reveals that Wespac, whose charge is to prevent overfishing and protect fish stocks up to 200 miles offshore Hawaii, U.S. territories and remote islands and atolls in the Pacific, controls millions of dollars that flow through a special fund with little oversight on how the money is being spent and by who.

Wespac's reluctance to release information makes it difficult to track the money, but a significant amount has gone to businesses that are owned or managed by current council members as well as contractors who are politically aligned with Wespac's goals to promote commercial fishing interests.

Civil Beat's reporting should serve as a springboard for greater scrutiny of Wespac and its longtime executive director, Kitty Simonds, who appears to run the organization as her personal fiefdom.

Criticism and questions about Wespac are not new. Hawaii Island-based newsletter Environment Hawaii has reported on allegations of mismanagement, misuse of power and arrogance since 1994.

More recently, U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz and U.S. Rep. Ed Case, Democrats of Hawaii, along with U.S. Rep. Gregorio Sablan of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have been

asking tough questions about Simonds and Wespac.

But Wespac has continued a decades-long practice of stonewalling and obfuscating, refusing to release the detailed financial accounting information sought by members of Congress as well as journalists.

The inquiries by investigative reporters into this agency's operations will continue, but it's clearly time for a deeper federal look into Wespac, its staff, its finances and its management practices.

Any probe should also look at whether the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is effective in its oversight of the council. NOAA, through its National Marine Fisheries Ser-

» It's time for a deep look into how the council is operating, particularly how it has been spending millions of dollars in grants and contracts.

vice, provides some scientific studies used by Wespac, awards federal grants to the council to further fisheries management and is responsible in part for its financial accountability.

But Wespac under Simonds' 37-year tenure has essentially operated independently and without much oversight, stalling on providing information even to NOAA.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, the nonpartisan and independent watchdog of the U.S. Congress, conducted a limited review of Wespac 10 years ago, looking at whether the council was improperly lobbying Congress and the administration on various issues such as national marine monuments.

But Wespac may well be ripe for a formal investigation by the U.S. Justice Department, given its reluctance to be forthcoming about its financial dealings including conflicts of interest by council members who are benefitting from grants and contracts being awarded by the council.

Wespac was created in 1976 along with seven other regional fishery management councils in the country by Sens. Ted Stevens of Alaska and Warren Magnuson of Washington state. The Magnuson-Stevens Act has been amended several times by Congress.

The objectives, as spelled out in the act, are to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, grow the economic benefits of marine use over the long term, use sound science and data to inform decision making, and conserve fish habitats and ensure harvesting food from the sea remains a sustainable enterprise.

Wespac's 13 voting members currently include eight representing commercial and sports fishing interests. The other five come from state, federal and territorial governments. In recent years critics have been pushing to formally add conservation or environmental interests to the council.

Hawaii's seat is currently held by Dean Sensui of Hawaii Goes Fishing, who received tens of thousands of dollars in grants from Wespac not long before he was named to the council. His term expires this year and Gov. David Ige will have the opportunity to nominate to the secretary of the U.S. Commerce Department a member who provides greater balance.

As Wespac's own website states, "Council members must balance competing interests while trying to make decisions for the overall benefit of the nation."

Fishery management is essential and must be held to the highest standard with full transparency.

But Civil Beat's series makes clear that too much of Wespac's work may be at cross purposes with its mission and possibly unethical. The public needs to have its confidence restored that its oceans are managed properly and that its tax dollars are spent wisely.

"There's a culture inside the management of Wespac that they can do whatever they want and it's nobody's business," Case said. "That's not cool with me."

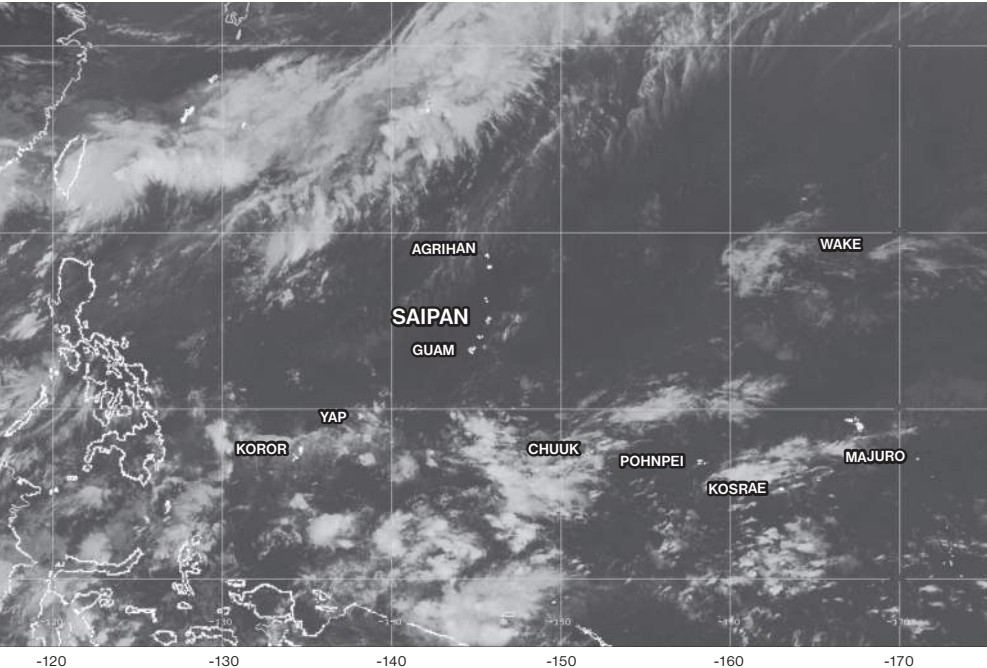
Nope. Not cool at all.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89°79°	89°79°	89°78°	89°78°	89°78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly east of the islands. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 7 to 12 knots through the lowest 4 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of east-southeast swell at 3 to 5 feet with small, almost negligible wind wave and other swell components.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Honolulu	Sunny	88° / 74°	
London	Rain	61° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°	
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 62°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Rome	Sunny	88° / 64°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	79° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 53°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	75° / 63°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:22 AM	HIGH TIDE		2.01
10:09 AM	LOW TIDE		0.54
3:47 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.45
9:35 PM	LOW TIDE		0.57

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:39 AM	2:06 PM
Thursday	-	2:22 AM	3:01 PM
Friday	-	3:06 AM	3:56 PM
Saturday	-	3:51 AM	4:52 PM
Sunday	-	4:37 AM	5:48 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Venezuelans adopt recycling habits amid economic uncertainty

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—In Venezuela, the financial hopes of Eliset González are riding on a niche trade.

Each day, González sits at a market kiosk in Caracas and repairs broken lightbulbs for people who can't afford new ones in the crisis-torn nation.

"I feel that with this I help the community, because these lightbulbs are super expensive nowadays. I help myself as well," said González, who learned how to disassemble and rewire a bulb while spending several years in prison for theft.

According to her calculations, a new compact fluorescent bulb can cost the equivalent of several dollars in Venezuela's nearly worthless currency—or about a month's wages. Even so, the quality is so poor they could last as little as a week.



Eliset González repairs a broken lightbulb for a customer who cannot afford a new one at her market-place kiosk in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, May 5, 2019.

A repair job, she said, can keep a bulb going for more than six months and costs a fraction of the price.

dedicated my time to study," González said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Her odd job is an inventive response to the economic chaos gripping the once-wealthy oil nation, where severe shortages of food and medicine have driven more than 4 million Venezuelans to seek refuge around the world in recent years. Last year, soaring hyperinflation topped a staggering 1 million percent.

But as the country's economy shrinks, González's life is hardly unique.

In another part of the city, Vladimir Fajardo scrapes together money by recycling random objects.

Many days, he sits on a Caracas sidewalk and uses a sharpened spoon to build toy cars out of plastic bottles, installing an internal pulley system with strips of rubber to make sections of the car rotate.

"I learned this in a penitentiary center where I was deprived of freedom, where I

Each toy takes about a half hour to build.

"There are people who tell me, 'What if I give you a dollar? Does a dollar help you?'" Fajardo said. "'Yes, give me a dollar'... With that I buy food."

Fajardo, who said he grappled with drug addiction in the past and roams city neighborhoods in search of customers, takes pride in his work.

His biggest supporters are "those who know about creativity—they know what this is about," he said.

For Elizabeth Cordido, a social psychologist at Metropolitan University in Caracas, attempts by Venezuelans to survive by recycling items that would otherwise be thrown out is, in one sense, positive.

But she said "it is very negative that it's through poverty and the increase of poverty that we have arrived at this."

"It hurts. It's painful," she said.

UN panel: Connect half the world, and \$20 phones can help

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—An independent U.N. panel called Monday for much greater cooperation to bring digital technology to roughly half the world's people, and a senior Google executive said mobile phones with internet access are being created to sell for about \$20 that can help make this possible.

Google Vice President Vinton Cerf said at a news conference after the panel's report was officially launched that "it's going to cost a lot of money" to end the digital divide.

But without driving down costs of phones and communications, he said, "we won't succeed in getting the other 4.5 billion, or 3.5 billion, people online."

Nonetheless, Cerf was optimistic. "I think that we're going to see the investment made primarily out of pure, simple incentive on the business side and demand on the consumer side," he said.

He said the new cheaper cellphones won't have all the features of a \$1,000 smartphone, "but they have enough to be useful—they have enough to get access to the content of the internet and the applications that it offers."

Cerf is one of 20 members of the panel established by Secre-

tary-General Antonio Guterres in July 2018 to advance a global dialogue on how the world can work better together to realize the potential of digital technologies to advance the well-being of all people while mitigating their risks.

It is led by Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and by Jack Ma, executive chairman of China's Alibaba Group.

"We are living at the dawn of a new digital era," Ma said in a statement. "Global cooperation among all parties—private sector, government, citizens, academics and civil society—is needed to use technology to achieve more prosperity, more opportunity, and more trust for people around the world."

Cerf, who is also Google's "chief internet evangelist," said the most significant places without access to digital technology are in rural areas, not only in countries in Africa but in the United States, where perhaps 10% to 15% of the population doesn't have reliable internet access.

In addition to costs, he said, having internet applications that are useful is also a problem. It's not helpful if on the web "you can discover a plumber in New York but you

happen to be in Bogota," and you can't find much in the language you speak, Cerf said.

Norway's minister of digitalization, Nikolai Astrup, also a panel member, said he strongly believes new technologies can help developing countries make "that quantum leap" to achieving U.N. goals for 2030, including ending extreme poverty while protecting the environment.

"Digital technology is no longer a luxury," he said. "It is essential for development, also for a developed country like Norway."

Whatever the cost, Astrup said, it will be overshadowed by the benefits of improving people's lives, solving some major global challenges and using big data, for example, to predict and prevent famine.

But Gates said in a statement that "digital technologies can help the world's poorest people transform their lives, but only if we are willing to address the inequalities that already keep them from fully participating in the economic and social lives of their countries."

The report recommends that every adult in the world have affordable access to digital networks and digital financial and health services by 2030.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US employers hired a record number of people in April

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. employers hired the most people on record in April, while the number of open jobs was largely unchanged, evidence that the job market remains solid. The Labor Department said Monday that businesses filled 5.9 million jobs that month, 4.2% more than in March and the most since records began in December 2000. Some of the increase in hiring simply reflects population growth. As a percentage of the workforce, new hires reached 3.9%, a strong reading but below the record of 4.3% reached in January 2001. The report shows employers are confident enough about the economy to add staff. Still, there were warning signs: The number of job openings has declined from a record 7.6 million in November to 7.4 million in April. That suggests demand for labor is softening a bit. Growth also appears to be slowing, with most economists forecasting that the economy will expand in the April-June quarter at about half the pace it did in the first three months of the year. Rising trade tensions with China, slowing growth in Europe and Asia, and the fading of stimulus from tax cuts and greater government spending last year are weighing on the economy.

Starbucks launches reusable cups trial at UK airport

LONDON (AP)—Starbucks and environmental charity Hubbub are launching a trial program to lend passengers at Britain's Gatwick Airport reusable cups while waiting for their flights in hopes of cutting down on waste. The one-month pilot program will give passengers at Britain's second-largest airport the option of

borrowing the cup—rather than using a paper one—and disposing of it before getting on their flights at "Cup Check-In" points. Cups will then be washed and sterilized and returned to Starbucks for re-circulation. Organizers hope to put 2,000 reusable Starbucks cups in circulation at the airport's South Terminal. Hubbub CEO Trewin Restorick says people care about plastic waste but find "it's often hard to 'do the right thing' when traveling." The trial will show whether consumers will accept such projects.

Private equity firm buying Shutterstock for \$1.74 billion

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Private equity firm Apollo Global Management is buying online photo publishing company Shutterstock for \$51 per share. Apollo will pay \$1.74 billion for the 20-year-old company, which became popular offering its users prints and photobooks of their favorite shots. But demand for that type of service has declined as people opt to share photos online through Facebook and other social networks. Redwood City, California-based Shutterstock's stock closed at \$50.25 on Monday—and was trading as high as \$94.28 per share a year ago. Ryan O'Hara, the former CEO at real estate company Move Inc., will become Shutterstock's new chief executive. Shutterstock became popular during a time when printing photos meant a trip to the supermarket and often a dayslong wait. The company's popularity swelled by selling an array of photo-clad gifts including mugs, calendars and canvases. Shutterstock bought competitor's Kodak's online photo business for \$23.8 million in 2012 after the legacy photo company filed for bankruptcy protection earlier that year.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P
2,886.73
+13.3
+0.47%

DOW
26,062.68
+78.74
+0.30%

NASDAQ
7,823.17
+81.07
+1.05%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.84	Russian Ruble	64.64
Australian Dollar	1.44	Singapore Dollar	1.37
British Pound	0.79	Indonesian Rupiah	14,017.93
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Malaysian Ringgit	4.12
Chinese Yuan	6.79	New Zealand Dollar	1.52
Euro	0.88	Philippine Peso	50.94
		Taiwan Dollar	30.87
		Thailand Baht	31.26

Nation

Medical pot laws no answer for US opioid deaths, study finds

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

A new study shoots down the notion that medical marijuana laws can prevent opioid overdose deaths, challenging a favorite talking point of legal pot advocates.

Researchers repeated an analysis that sparked excitement years ago. The previous work linked medical marijuana laws to slower than expected increases in state prescription opioid death rates from 1999 to 2010. The original authors speculated patients might be substituting marijuana for painkillers, but they warned against drawing conclusions.

Still, states ravaged by painkiller overdose deaths began to rethink marijuana, leading several to legalize pot for medical use.

When the new researchers included data through 2017, they found the reverse: States passing medical marijuana laws saw a 23% higher than expected rate of deaths involving prescription opioids.

Legalizing medical marijuana “is not going to be a solution to the opioid overdose crisis,” said Chelsea Shover of Stanford University School of Medicine. “It would be wonderful if that were true, but the evidence doesn’t suggest that it is.”

Shover and colleagues reported the findings Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It’s unlikely, they said, that medical marijuana laws caused first



AP
In this May 20, 2019, file photo head of cultivation at Loving Kindness Farms Jason Roberts checks one of his marijuana plants in a grow room wearing green lights not to wake them wake them during their night cycle in Gardena, Calif. A new study shoots down the notion that medical marijuana laws can prevent opioid overdose deaths. Chelsea Shover of Stanford University School of Medicine and colleagues reported the findings Monday, June 10, in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

deaths,” said Brendan Saloner of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. “That was very hard for us to rein in.”

Marijuana has been shown to help ease chronic pain, and other studies have suggested medical marijuana laws may reduce opioid prescribing. So there’s still reason to believe that for some people, marijuana can substitute for opioids as a pain reliever.

one big effect and then the opposite. Any beneficial link was likely coincidental all along.

“We don’t think it’s reasonable to say it was saving lives before but it’s killing people now,” Shover said.

In the opioid crisis, dozens of forces are playing out across the nation in different ways. How widely available is the overdose antidote naloxone? Who has insurance? How broadly does insurance cover addiction treatment?

What’s more, prescrip-

tion pills once were involved in the largest share of overdose deaths, but that changed as heroin and then fentanyl surged. The studies on marijuana laws and opioid deaths don’t account for that.

The new study undermines recent policy changes in some states. Last week, New Mexico joined New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in approving marijuana for patients with opioid addiction.

“I was told my paper helped change the law in New York. I

was appalled,” said Rosalie Liccardo Pacula of the Rand Drug Policy Research Center. She co-authored a 2018 study on marijuana laws and overdose deaths.

Experts agree evidence doesn’t support marijuana as a treatment for opioid addiction. Drugs like buprenorphine, morphine and naltrexone should be used instead, Pacula said.

Authors of the original research welcomed the new analysis.

“We weren’t happy when a billboard went up saying marijuana laws reduce overdose

Crane collapse victim in Dallas is identified as 29-year-old woman

DALLAS (AP)—Residents in North Texas began to come to grips Monday with the widespread damage left after a sudden thunderstorm bearing near hurricane-strength winds rolled through the area and collapsed a crane onto an apartment complex, killing one person and injuring five others.

Wind gusts measuring as high as 71 mph (114 kph) blew out the windows of high-rise buildings and tore trees apart, taking power and telephone lines with them, especially in Dallas and its northern suburbs. The electric utility Oncor reported that 140,000 customers had service restored by nightfall Monday, but 210,000 still remained in the dark. In a statement, Oncor said some customers may not have service restored until Thursday. Crews from across Texas and some other states have been brought in to help in the restoration process.

Kiersten Symone Smith, 29, was pronounced dead at a hospital, according to the Dallas County Medical Examiners’ office, after the construction crane smashed into a five-story building near downtown. The crane destroyed many apartments at the Elan City Lights complex and reduced parts of an adjacent parking garage to a pile of concrete and man-

gled cars.

Smith was a resident of the apartment building, her sister, Toni Smith, told The Associated Press in a brief interview Monday. Toni Smith referred other questions to attorney Jonathan Cox, who said he could not immediately provide answers but that the family intends to issue a statement. The cause of her death has not been determined.

Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans said Monday that the five other people were hospitalized after the collapse and all are expected to recover. Two people were discharged Sunday; a 35-year-old man and 35-year-old woman remain hospitalized but have been upgraded from “critical” to “good” condition; and a 23-year old man remains in “serious” condition, Evans said.

Meanwhile, fire-rescue crews escorted residents of the apartment building briefly into their homes Monday to retrieve pets and some essentials as city workers and Occupational Safety and Health Administration officials ponder how to remove the crane embedded in the structure’s east side. As of late Monday morning, almost 500 traffic signals were inoperable across Dallas, and about 170 were flashing red lights, according to the city.

Helicopter crashes on roof of NYC skyscraper, killing pilot

NEW YORK (AP)—A helicopter crashed on the roof of a rain-shrouded midtown Manhattan skyscraper Monday, killing the pilot and briefly triggering memories of 9/11, after an erratic trip across some of the nation’s most restricted airspace. Authorities said they did not suspect terrorism.

The crash near Times Square and Trump Tower shook the 750-foot (229-meter) AXA Equitable building, sparked a fire, and forced office workers to flee on elevators and down stairs, witnesses and officials said.

The pilot was the only person aboard, and there were no other reports of injuries, authorities said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, or why the Agusta A109E was flying in a driving downpour with low cloud cover and in the tightly controlled airspace of midtown Manhattan. A flight restriction in effect since President Donald Trump took



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

office bans aircraft from flying below 3,000 feet (914 meters) within a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius of Trump Tower, which is less than a half-mile (0.8 kilometers) from the crash site.

“There’s something mysterious here,” Mayor Bill de Blasio told CNN, saying of-

officials were scrutinizing video of a “very erratic” flight and authorities needed to find out more about the pilot at the time he decided to take off.

One lawmaker called for “non-essential” helicopter flights over Manhattan to be banned.

The pilot, identified by his employer as Tim McCormack, was a former fire chief in upstate Clinton, New York. With 15 years of experience flying helicopters and single-engine airplanes, he was certified as a flight instructor last year, according to Federal Aviation Administration records.

The East Clinton Volunteer Fire Department posted on Facebook that McCormack’s “technical knowledge and ability to command an emergency were exceptional.”

The 19-year-old helicopter was linked to a real estate company founded by Italian-born investor Daniele Bodini, according to FAA records.

The helicopter went down about 11 minutes after taking

off from a heliport along the East River, a little more than a mile (1.6 kilometers) away. Police Commissioner James O’Neill said it may have been returning to its home airport in Linden, New Jersey.

The director at Linden Municipal Airport, Paul Dudley, described McCormack as “a highly seasoned” and “very well regarded” pilot who was a regular at the airfield.

He suspects that a mechanical problem or the weather “overwhelmed him and the helicopter,” Dudley said. “I believe he tried to get on the roof and spare the people on the ground.”

McCormack, 58, chronicled some of his helicopter flights on his Facebook page, including a 2014 emergency landing caused by a bird strike. He had been conducting a sightseeing tour over Manhattan when the bird penetrated the windshield of his Bell BHT 407, causing McCormack to land unexpectedly at the West 30th Street Heliport.

Asia

Extradition bill pushes Hong Kong to a political crisis

HONG KONG (AP)—A highly controversial legislative measure in Hong Kong that would allow criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China has pushed the former British colony to its biggest political crisis in years.

A march to protest the measure drew hundreds of thousands of people to the streets Sunday and stretched into Monday, with critics of the bill viewing the changes as part of a steady erosion of their civil liberties.

While Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam says the legislation will help the semi-

autonomous Chinese territory protect human rights, opponents say the changes would significantly compromise its legal independence, long viewed as one of its key distinctions from mainland China.

"We still feel very different from China," said retired public servant Ronny Chan, who was watching a soccer game in a park in the Wanchai district. "The politicians in Beijing have no idea about us, and I don't think they really care."

In what was likely Hong Kong's largest protest in more than a decade, hun-

dreds of thousands of people shut down the heart of the skyscraper-studded city on Sunday, three days before the Legislative Council is slated to take up the bill.

Critics believe the legislation would put Hong Kong residents at risk of becoming entrapped in China's murky judicial system, in which political opponents have been charged with economic crimes or ill-defined national security transgressions. Opponents say that once charged, suspects may face unfair proceedings in a system where the vast majority of criminal trials end in conviction.

"It's the culmination of about six weeks of mounting concern," Hong Kong Bar Association Chair Philip Dykes said in an interview. "There is a dissatisfaction with it all."

Opponents of the amendments are largely drawn from

Hong Kong's middle class, who boast high education levels but have had to contend with skyrocketing housing prices and stalemated incomes.

The demonstrations refocused attention on Hong Kong, whose residents have long bristled at what many see as efforts by Beijing to tighten control. The protests dominated newspaper front pages in a city that allows far more freedom of expression than other parts of China.

Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years under an agreement reached before its 1997 return to China from British rule. But China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by pushing through unpopular legal changes.

Lam told reporters Monday that the legislation will help Hong Kong uphold justice and fulfill its international obligations. Safeguards added in May will ensure that the legislation protects human rights, she said.

She said the bill seeks to prevent Hong Kong from becoming a haven for fugitives and is not focused on mainland China, adding that Western democracies have accused Hong Kong of failing to address issues such as money laundering and terrorist financing.

The extradition law amendments would allow Hong Kong to send people to mainland China to face charges, spurring criticism that defendants in the Chinese judicial system won't have the same rights as they would in Hong Kong.

Lam said Sunday's protest

shows Hong Kong's enduring commitment to its people's freedoms. She denied that she is taking orders from the central government in China's capital.

"I have not received any instruction or mandate from Beijing to do this bill," she said. "We were doing it—and we are still doing it—out of our clear conscience, and our commitment to Hong Kong."

People of all ages took part in the march. Some pushed strollers while others walked with canes, and chanted slogans in favor of greater transparency in government. The protest was largely peaceful, though there were a few scuffles with police as demonstrators broke through barriers at government headquarters and briefly pushed their way into the lobby. Police in riot gear used batons and tear gas to push the protesters outside.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China telecom giant Huawei hints US pressure hurting sales

SHANGHAI (AP)—Chinese tech giant Huawei says it would have become the world's number one smartphone maker by year's end if it were not for "unexpected" circumstances. Huawei's chief strategist, Shao Yang, said Tuesday the company now has to "wait a little bit longer to achieve that." He did not directly refer to President Donald Trump or trade. Washington has put Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bars U.S. firms from selling to the company without government approval. Huawei, the world's top network equipment provider and second-largest smartphone maker, has become embroiled in the trade dispute between China and the U.S. U.S. officials have accused Chinese technology companies, including Huawei, of stealing trade secrets and threatening international cybersecurity. Huawei denies that it would share users' secrets with China's ruling Communist Party.

Indian ground team looking for climbers' bodies in Himalayas

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's mountaineering foundation has launched a ground expedition on a notoriously dangerous Himalayan mountain to retrieve the bodies of five people believed to be from a missing team of international climbers, an official said Monday. The foundation spokesman Amit Chaudhary said a fully equipped 12-member team hopes to reach the area where the bodies were spotted by Saturday. Helicopter missions have failed to

reach the area at an altitude of 5,000 meters (16,404 feet) due to strong turbulence. Veteran British mountaineer Martin Moran led the team of four Britons, two Americans, an Australian and an Indian on the expedition on Nanda Devi East. Moran's Scotland-based company said contact with the team was lost on May 26 following an avalanche. All eight missing climbers are feared dead. The foundation said its expedition has a window of 15-20 days to complete the operation before monsoon rains arrive. The expedition was using the Pindari glacier side to reach the site.

US envoy launches new push on Afghan talks with Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Renewed efforts are underway to jumpstart stalled peace talks with the Taliban as a U.S. envoy is in Kabul and Pakistani and Afghan officials are meeting in Islamabad. U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad says he's holding meetings with Kabul officials on Monday, seeking to bring about a new round of Afghan-to-Afghan talks, which he describes as essential to resolving the country's nearly 18-year war. The Taliban carry out near-daily attacks, inflicting staggering casualties on Afghan forces, and now control about half of Afghanistan. Washington, meanwhile, has accelerated efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict and has been pressing for direct talks between the Taliban and Kabul. Meanwhile, Afghan and Pakistani officials from a group tasked with finding ways to cooperate on diplomatic, military and intelligence-sharing are meeting in Islamabad.



A protester sits near barriers after police officers clash against protesters in a rally against the proposed amendments to the extradition law at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong during the early hours of Monday, June 10, 2019.

Report: Japan's 84-year-old former empress has heart problem

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's 84-year-old former Empress Michiko has a heart problem that needs monitoring but can go ahead with a planned trip to the ancient capital of Kyoto with her husband, who recently abdicated as emperor, media reports said Monday.

Palace officials said doctors found Michiko has heart valve abnormalities and an irregular pulse, NHK public television said.

Doctors discovered the abnormalities in a heart examination on Saturday after a regular health checkup showed an increase in cardiac hormones.

Michiko has experienced shortness of breath after her daily morning walks since earlier this year, NHK said. She also experienced chest pains in 2015 and received a coronary artery scan that detected symptoms of insufficient blood flow to the heart.

However, it said she will accompany her husband Akihito to Kyoto as planned, as part of his abdication rituals. She also visited Akihito's grandfather's tomb in western Tokyo last Thursday as planned.

After returning from Kyoto, Michiko will receive scheduled cataract operations, one

side at a time on June 16 and 23, NHK said.

Imperial Household Agency officials were not available for comment late Monday.

Akihito, 85, abdicated on April 30, becoming the first to do so in 200 years, and now holds the title of emperor emeritus. Akihito's elder son, Naruhito, acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1.

Michiko is the first commoner to marry an emperor in modern Japanese history. Catholic-educated Michiko Shoda and Akihito married on April 10, 1959, after what is known as their tennis court

romance.

They broke with tradition and brought many changes to the monarchy. They chose to raise their three children themselves, spoke far more often to the public, and made amends for war victims in and outside the country.

Unlike their predecessors, Akihito and Michiko are almost always seen together—Akihito kneeling beside Michiko speaking intimately with disaster victims at evacuation centers, or to residents at nursing homes. Their close interactions have won them a deep affection among Japanese.

World

Stern words from Iran: US cannot 'expect to stay safe'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's foreign minister warned the U.S. on Monday that it "cannot expect to stay safe" after launching what he described as an economic war against Tehran, taking a hard-line stance amid a visit by Germany's top diplomat seeking to defuse tensions.

A stern-faced Mohammad Javad Zarif offered a series of threats over the ongoing tensions gripping the Persian Gulf. The crisis takes root in President Donald Trump's decision over a year ago to withdraw America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Trump also reinstated tough sanctions on Iran, targeting its oil sector.

"Mr. Trump himself has announced that the U.S. has launched an economic war against Iran," Zarif said. "The only solution for reducing tensions in this region is stopping that economic war."

Zarif also warned: "Whoever starts a war with us will not be the one who finishes it."

Zarif's ramped up rhetoric marked a sharp departure for the U.S.-educated diplomat and signals that Iran is taking a harder line toward the West. His public threats, which came during a joint news conference with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, were striking because Zarif was the one who helped secure the nuclear deal, alongside the relatively mod-



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks during a press conference with his German counterpart Heiko Maas after their talks in Tehran, Iran, Monday, June 10, 2019.

erate President Hassan Rouhani. However, he does not make the decision on whether to go to war. That is left to the supreme leader.

For his part, Maas insisted his country and other European nations want to find a way to salvage the deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of

economic sanctions. But he acknowledged there were limits.

"We won't be able to do miracles, but we are trying as best as we can to do prevent its failure," Maas said.

However, Europe has yet to offer Iran a way to get around the newly imposed U.S. sanctions. Meanwhile, a July 7 deadline—imposed by Iran-

—looms for Europe to find a way to save the unraveling deal. Otherwise, Iran has warned it will resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus dismissed the foreign minister's comments as "typical behavior" from the Iranian

government as it confronts a Trump administration campaign of increasing economic and diplomatic pressure.

"We aren't impressed," she told reporters. "Iran faces a simple choice: it can either behave like a normal nation or watch its economy crumble."

Zarif's comments came after Maas spoke about Is-

rael, an archenemy of Iran's government.

"Israel's right to exist is part of Germany's founding principle and is completely non-negotiable," Maas said. "It is a result of our history and it's irrevocable and doesn't just change because I am currently in Tehran."

Zarif then grew visibly angry, offering a list of Mideast problems ranging from al-Qaida to the bombing of Yemeni civilians he blamed on the U.S. and its allies, namely Saudi Arabia.

"If one seeks to talk about instability in this region, those are the other parties who should be held responsible," Zarif said.

Zarif's sharp tone likely comes from Iran's growing frustration with Europe, as well as the ever-tightening American sanctions targeting the country. Iran's national currency, the rial, is trading at nearly 130,000 to \$1. It had been 32,000 to the dollar at the time of the 2015 deal. That has wiped away people's earnings, as well as driven up prices on nearly every good in the country.

European nations had pledged to create a mechanism called INSTEX, which would allow Iran to continue to trade for humanitarian goods despite American sanctions. However, that program has yet to really take off, something Iran's foreign ministry spokesman noted before Zarif and Maas spoke to reporters.

Assailants raid village in Mali, killing at least 95 people

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Assailants raided a central Mali village early Monday, killing at least 95 people in the latest massacre in a growing ethnic conflict that has been enflamed by Islamic extremists, government officials said.

Nineteen people were missing after the ethnic Dogon village of Sobame Da was attacked around 3 a.m., said Interior Security Ministry spokesman Amadou Sangho. Homes were burned and animals slaughtered, the government said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though tensions have been high since a Dogon militia was accused of carrying out a massacre in an ethnic Peuhl village in March that left at least 157 dead. It was the conflict's deadliest attack yet.

The killings highlight the Malian security forces' inability to contain the spreading violence, which has been blamed on extremist fighters linked to the Islamic State organization and al-Qaida and the growing danger of frightened communi-

ties arming themselves.

Mali has long battled Islamic extremism in its far north, with a French-led military intervention dispersing jihadists from the region's major towns. The extremists have infiltrated communities much further south in recent years, stoking animosity between ethnic groups in the region with a much larger population.

Some Peuhl leaders had vowed to carry out reprisals for the March bloodshed. A Dogon militia known as Dan Na Ambassagou was blamed for the attack. Militia leader Youssouf Toloba has denied his fighters were involved.

Mali's president has vowed to extinguish the militia. The massacre in March in Ogossagou led some once-demobilized fighters to take up arms again.

On Monday a prominent group representing the Peuhl community, Tabital Pulaaku, issued a statement blaming the "cycle of violence" on the absence of state authority and impunity for perpetrators of attacks.

"The insecurity and the large-scale massacres exploited by terrorist groups are the seeds of a total and lasting destabilization of the region," the statement said.

The Peuhl are accused of working alongside jihadists from the Islamic State of Greater Sahara organization to attack Dogon villages and prevent people from cultivating their land.

In turn, the Peuhl have alleged that the Dogons are collaborating with Mali's military, though there is no conclusive sign of state support.

The groups have not been evenly matched. Human Rights Watch says the Dan Na Ambassagou militia has been behind violence that resulted in much higher death tolls, in part because the group has more sophisticated weapons.

The latest massacre is a reminder that the conflict has no easily defined good or bad sides, the head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, Mahamat Saleh Annadif, said in a statement. "Everyone is responsible," he said.

Netherlands vegetable seed developer wins World Food Prize

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A seed developer from the Netherlands credited with introducing high quality disease-resistant vegetable seeds to more than 60 countries including the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia was awarded the 2019 World Food Prize on Monday.

Simon Groot, a sixth generation seedsman, began his search to create better vegetable seeds to help farmers in Southeast Asia in 1981 at age 47 after his family's company was taken over by a larger corporation.

He had learned 16 years earlier on his first trip to Indonesia that vegetable seeds developed for the temperate climate of Europe did poorly when planted in the tropics. He thought there was a huge opportunity to introduce hybrid vegetables to the region, which lacked vegetable seed developers working to adapt hybrids to the local climate.

"It was neither charity nor business. It was a passion for good seeds," said Groot, now

85. "It had always bothered me that I noticed the seed quality in that part of world was so much below our standards and below achievable standards and as a seedsman I couldn't stand that the farmers there were just deprived of decent seeds."

At the time, farmers in Southeast Asia typically saved seeds from season to season to plant because seeds available for purchase were often expired lots from Europe and North America and poorly adapted to their climate. They were stuck with low yields, quality that varied greatly from season to season, and plants susceptible to a wide variety of diseases.

Groot partnered with seed trader Benito Domingo of the Philippines and put together a team of seed researchers and breeders from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and the University of the Philippines. With a few years, they developed a hybrid bitter melon that was commercially successful. They then adapted a tomato variety, followed by

eggplants, pumpkins and leafy vegetables.

The early successes led to the creation of the East-West Seed Company, which now has more than 970 improved seed varieties of 60 vegetable crops.

Over the past four decades, the innovations led to the creation of a tropical vegetable seed industry geared toward small-holder farmers now spreading into Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It's estimated that the company's seeds benefit 20 million farmers a year in more than 60 countries, said Kenneth Quinn, the former U.S. ambassador to Vietnam who has been the president of the Des Moines, Iowa-based World Food Prize Foundation since 2000.

"Farmers' daily lives were uplifted and consumers benefited from greater access to nutritious vegetables," Quinn said. "You put all those together and he's a truly remarkable individual with worthy accomplishments that should be recognized."

Focus

Islamic State expands reach in Afghanistan, threatening West

By KATHY GANNON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—The Islamic State group has lost its caliphate in Syria and Iraq, but in the forbidding mountains of northeastern Afghanistan the group is expanding its footprint, recruiting new fighters and plotting attacks on the United States and other Western countries, according to U.S. and Afghan security officials.

Nearly two decades after the U.S.-led invasion, the extremist group is seen as an even greater threat than the Taliban because of its increasingly sophisticated military capabilities and its strategy of targeting civilians, both in Afghanistan and abroad. Concerns run so deep that many have come to see the Taliban, which have also clashed with IS, as a potential partner in containing it.

A U.S. intelligence official based in Afghanistan told The Associated Press that a recent wave of attacks in the capital, Kabul, is “practice runs” for even bigger attacks in Europe and the United States.

“This group is the most near-term threat to our homelands from Afghanistan,” the official said on condition of anonymity to preserve his operational security. “The IS core mandate is: You will conduct external attacks” in the U.S. and Europe. “That is their goal. It’s just a matter of time,” he said. “It is very scary.”

Bruce Hoffman, director of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University, sees Afghanistan as a possible new base for IS now that it has been driven from Iraq and Syria. “ISIS has invested a disproportionate amount of attention and resources in Afghanistan,” he said, pointing to “huge arms stockpiling” in the east.

A ‘PROVINCE’ OF THE CALIPHATE

The Islamic State affiliate appeared in Afghanistan shortly after the group’s core fighters swept across Syria and Iraq in the summer of 2014, carving out a self-styled caliphate, or Islamic empire, in around a third of both countries. The Afghanistan affiliate refers to itself as the Khorasan Province, a name applied to parts of Afghanistan, Iran and central Asia in the Middle Ages.

The IS affiliate initially numbered just a few dozen fighters, mainly Pakistani Taliban driven from their bases



In this Thursday, May 30, 2019 photo, Ajmal Omar a member of the Nangarhar provincial council speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in the city of Jalalabad, Afghanistan. The Islamic State group has lost its caliphate in Syria and Iraq, but in the forbidding mountains of northeastern Afghanistan the group is expanding its footprint, recruiting new fighters and plotting attacks in the United States and other Western countries. Omar said IS now has a presence in the provinces of Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman.

across the border and disgruntled Afghan Taliban attracted to IS’ more extreme ideology. While the Taliban have confined their struggle to Afghanistan, the IS militants pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the reclusive leader of the group in the Middle East, and embraced his call for a worldwide jihad against non-Muslims. Within Afghanistan, IS launched large-scale attacks on minority Shiites, who it views as apostates deserving of death.

The group suffered some early stumbles as its leaders were picked off by U.S. airstrikes. But it received a major boost when the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan joined its ranks in 2015. Today it counts thousands of fighters, many from central Asia but also from Arab countries, Chechnya, India and Bangladesh, as well as ethnic Uighurs from China.

The group has long been based in the eastern Nangarhar province, a rugged region along the border with Pakistan, but has a strong presence in northern Afghanistan and of late has expanded into neighboring Kunar province, where it could prove even harder to dislodge. The mountainous province provided shelter for Osama bin Laden for nearly a year after the Taliban’s ouster, and U.S. forces struggled for

years to capture and hold high-altitude outposts there, eventually all but surrendering the region to the Taliban.

The area comprising the provinces of Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman was so dangerous that the U.S.-led coalition assigned an acronym to it in the years after the invasion, referring to it as N2KL. Militants launching shoulder-fired rockets from Kunar’s peaks downed a U.S. Chinook helicopter in 2005, killing 16 Navy SEALs and special operations forces in one of the deadliest single attacks of the war.

Ajmal Omar, a member of the Nangarhar provincial council, says IS now has a presence in all four provinces.

“Right now in Kunar, the right side of the road is Taliban, the left side is Daesh and the government is in the middle,” he said, referring to the group by its Arabic acronym. Speaking inside his heavily fortified home in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, he said neighboring Kunar would soon replace the Middle East as the IS group’s center of gravity.

“When they began in Afghanistan they were maybe 150 Daesh, but today there are thousands and thousands,” he said.

“The bad news is their acquisition of key terrain, height

concealment, where they can have easy access to money, weapons, equipment . . . and from where they can plan, train, stage, facilitate and expedite attacks,” said the U.S. intelligence official. “I think expansion of territory in eastern Afghanistan is their number one military objective,” with the goal of eventually encircling Jalalabad, he said.

TURNING TO THE TALIBAN

It’s been nearly 18 years since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan to topple the Taliban, which had harbored al-Qaida when bin Laden and his lieutenants were planning the Sept. 11 attacks. Now military and intelligence officials see the Taliban as a potential ally against a similar threat.

In recent months the Taliban have said they have no ambitions to monopolize power in a post-war Afghanistan, while IS is committed to overthrowing the Kabul government on its path to establishing a global caliphate. The Taliban and IS are sharply divided over ideology and tactics, with the Taliban largely confining their attacks to government targets and Afghan and international security forces. The Taliban and IS have fought each other on a number of occasions, and the Taliban are still the larger and more imposing force.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has held several rounds of talks with the Taliban in recent months in a bid to end America’s longest war. The two sides appear to be closing in on an agreement in which the U.S. would withdraw its forces in return for a pledge from the Taliban to keep the country from being used as a launch pad for global attacks.

“One of the hopes of a negotiated settlement is that it will bring the Taliban into the government and into the fight against IS,” the U.S. intelligence official said. “They know the mountains, they know the terrain. It’s their territory.”

But a negotiated settlement could also prompt an exodus of more radical Taliban fighters to join IS. That process is already underway in parts of northern and eastern Afghanistan, where the Taliban have attacked IS only to lose territory and fighters to the rival extremist group.

Russia, which occupied Afghanistan in the 1980s before being driven out by U.S.-backed Islamic insurgents, has been sounding the alarm about IS for years, and had reached out to the Taliban even before the U.S. talks. During a visit to Kyrgyzstan last month, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu described Afghanistan as a “launch pad” for IS after the group was pushed out of Syria

and Iraq.

Russia, like the United States, sees a peace agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government as the best way of countering the threat posed by IS, and Moscow has held two rounds of informal talks involving the Taliban, government representatives and other prominent Afghans.

But as peace efforts have stumbled in recent months, Russia has turned to more lethal means of containing the threat. Shoigu said Russia has sent heavy equipment, including helicopters and armored vehicles, to Kyrgyz forces, and has boosted combat readiness in its bases in the former Soviet republics of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

THREATENING THE WEST

Without an aggressive counterterrorism strategy, Afghanistan’s IS affiliate will be able to carry out a large-scale attack in the U.S. or Europe within the next year, the U.S. intelligence official said, adding that IS fighters captured in Afghanistan have been found to be in contact with fellow militants in other countries.

Authorities have also already made at least eight arrests in the United States linked to the IS affiliate in Afghanistan.

Martin Azizi-Yarand, the 18-year-old Texan who plotted a 2018 attack on a suburban mall, said he was inspired by IS and was preparing to join the affiliate in Afghanistan. He was sentenced in April to 20 years in jail.

Rakhmat Akilov, the 39-year-old Uzbek who plowed his truck into pedestrians in Stockholm in 2017, also had links with the Afghanistan affiliate, the intelligence official said. “During interrogation he said ‘this is my commander in Afghanistan and he is telling me what to do,’” he said.

Inside Afghanistan, the group is actively recruiting at universities, where it is more likely to find tech-savvy Afghans able to travel abroad, use social media and help plan sophisticated attacks, according to the intelligence official.

The group’s brutal tactics have been on vivid display inside Afghanistan for years. Suicide bombings have killed hundreds of Shiite civilians in Kabul and elsewhere, and residents who have fled areas captured by the group describe a reign of terror not unlike that seen in Syria and Iraq.

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

Fiesta hibiscus...vacation packaged as a plant

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

An old hibiscus has The Garden Guy under a magical spell this year for a couple of reasons. Now when I say old, I'm not talking about a specific plant but a variety, Fiesta, that made its debut 53 years ago.

It is incredible that major suppliers are still producing Fiesta after all of the countless new varieties that have made their debut in the last half-century. When I look at it, I am flooded with happiness. It is like my trip to Bora Bora or Tahiti. This is a vacation packaged as a plant.

Fiesta seems to always be showing multiple colors. Consider the descriptor on the Monrovia web site, "A sensational tropical shrub with large, exotic color-changing blooms. The showy flowers



TNS

Fiesta hibiscus was created by Ross Gast one of the founders of the American Hibiscus Society over 50 years ago.



This mixed container with Fiesta hibiscus and blue lobelia is an explosion of color.

TNS

have bright orange petals with crinkled edges and quickly change after opening, developing softer golden margins and a white center, with a blush red eye.

We have Ross Gast to thank for this hibiscus; registering it back in 1966. I wish I could have known him. He was one of the founders of the American Hibiscus Society. He was an explorer and a scientist, a reporter and a writer, and so much more. If you knew him, write to me and tell me what he was like.

The Hibiscus rosa-sinensis that we affectionately call the Chinese hibiscus or the Hawaiian hibiscus, and is the national flower of Malaysia, has never been found in the wild. Ross Gast made 3 great journeys trying to piece the genetics together like a hibiscus puzzle.

Thankfully, he wrote letters that were assembled into a book called "Hibiscus Around the World" by Ross Gast. Immediately upon reading some of these, I felt like he was my

friend. If you love hibiscus, you were his friend, even if you never met.

His writings remind me of Dr. David Fairchild, the great USDA Plant explorer, of whom Fairchild Tropical Gardens was named. He was also the founder of the property or site now called the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah where I retired as director.

In reading Fairchild's letters and Ross Gast letters one quickly realizes it was these letters, these journals, the recording of what they saw, found or whom they met that was so vital. If you are keeping a journal of your garden, flowers butterflies or birds seen, you too are creating a rare and priceless document.

Though many tout Gast's other hibiscus selections, the consumer has voted for Fiesta via their heart and pocketbook. The ringing of the cash registers tells you Fiesta is one of the most loved hibiscuses of all-time and still being abundantly produced many years after its

plant patent expiration.

Now, 53 years later, my son is using them in mixed container designs that are riveting. They are like explosions of color and celebration. Fiesta hibiscus combined with Techno Heat Blue lobelia is an unsurpassed complementary color partnership.

In a garden bed, there is Fiesta hibiscus with Hawaiian Ti plants, Borneo Giant elephant ear, and Golden Delicious Pineapple sage for a feast of the senses. Sure, we can grow the topical hibiscus as a specimen, but the combination possibilities are almost unlimited.

Many times, I have written about a hibiscus that, to be honest, has been rather hard to find. If your local garden center doesn't have Fiesta, type it in on your favorite search engine and you'll soon be growing your own.

If you love hibiscus, Ross Gast was your friend and you can relish in the fact that he left us a prized jewel for the landscape, porch, patio or deck. Let the Fiesta begin.

Kids still being poisoned by laundry detergent pods

By ELLEN WAGNER
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH, OHIO

While the number of children poisoned by laundry detergent pods has decreased slightly in recent years, they still pose a serious risk to young children, according to a new study.

From January 2012 to December 2017, there were nearly 73,000 calls to U.S. poison-control centers about exposure to single-use liquid laundry detergent packets, or pods, according to the study published online last week in the journal Pediatrics.

The Center for Injury Research and Policy of the Abigail Wexner Research Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Central Ohio Poison Center

Most of the cases involved children younger than 6 years old.

Henry Spiller, director of the Central Ohio Poison Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital and co-author of the study

Then in 2015, the leading laundry pod manufacturers changed the design to make it harder for children to access the colorful, squishy pods. Child safety groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics,

In central Ohio, there were 53 reports of exposure to detergent packets in 2012, 320 reports in 2015 and 268 in 2018. Those numbers include



TNS

From January 2012 to December 2017, there were nearly 73,000 calls to U.S. poison-control centers about exposure to single-use liquid laundry detergent packets, or pods, according to the study published online last week in the journal Pediatrics.

people of all ages.

"We are seeing a decrease," Spiller said. "The one concern is that we are still seeing these though."

The study also showed some cases of adults, particularly those with dementia or developmental disabilities, being poisoned by liquid laundry detergent packets.

The detergent packets, which were first sold in the United States in 2012, attract children because the colorful pods look like candy, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Laundry detergent packets can be punctured and cause chemical burns to skin, eyes or be ingested. Liquid laundry detergent packets are more dangerous than tradi-

tional liquid or powder detergent, but researchers said they weren't sure why.

Spiller recommends using liquid or powder detergents if you have children under six years or keep the laundry detergent packets out of reach of children.

He said the industry will continue to work with healthcare providers, pediatricians and news media to educate people on the harm laundry detergent packets can cause and how the packets are different than other laundry detergents.

"We don't want the message to be 'Hey the problem is fixed,'" Spiller said. "We want parents to know these are dangerous if you have them in your house."

Life & Style

AP Was There: OJ Simpson questioned in double killings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—This week marks 25 years since O.J. Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman were found stabbed to death outside her LA home.

Investigators quickly focused their attention on the former football great, leading to a slow-speed chase that was carried live on national television and, later, the "Trial of the Century," which ended in Simpson's acquittal.

To mark the anniversary, the AP is reprinting this story about the early days of the investigation. It first appeared June 14, 1994.

O.J. Simpson Questioned in Death of Ex-Wife

LOS ANGELES—O.J. Simpson met with his attorney today amid reports that a bloodied glove was found at his home by police investigating the deaths of his ex-wife and another man.

Simpson has denied in-

volvement in the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and Ronald Lyle Goldman, 25. He was not arrested, but today's Los Angeles Times quoted unidentified police sources as saying the football Hall of Famer was under investigation.

Family and friends streamed to Simpson's Brentwood mansion a day after he was handcuffed briefly and questioned for three hours about the deaths.

"It's difficult enough with the shock that you wife's been murdered, but to hear that you may be accused of it, well, it's awful," attorney Howard Weitzman said after meeting with Simpson.

Weitzman said he knew nothing about the reports of the discovery of bloody gloves. He described Simpson as distraught.

The lawyer said earlier that Simpson "had nothing to do with this tragedy."

A passerby found Mrs. Simp-

son's body near a gate to her West Los Angeles condominium early Monday. Police found Goldman's body in shrubbery nearby. Police wouldn't say

when the two died.

A blood-soaked glove was found at Simpson's home, the Times and the Daily News of Los Angeles reported, citing unidentified police sources. The Daily News reported that the glove matched one found near the bodies.

"I know nothing," Simpson said as he got into a pa-

trol car Monday.

Simpson flew to Chicago on business about 11 p.m. Sunday and returned around noon the next day, after police notified him of Mrs. Simpson's death, Weitzman said Monday.

"Mr. Simpson is not being treated as a suspect," Weitzman said. "He had nothing to do with this tragedy."

AP
This file combination photo shows Nicole Brown Simpson, left, and Ron Goldman. The June 12, 1994, killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman brought the "Trial of the Century" that saw O.J. Simpson acquitted of the murders.

Police aren't ruling anyone out as a suspect, Cmdr. David Gascon said.

Autopsies were planned for today. Coroner's spokesman Scott Carrier said "sharp-force injuries," which might include stabbing, contributed to the deaths. The Daily News said the victims' throats were slashed.

Goldman was a waiter at the restaurant where Mrs. Simpson dined Sunday, but he didn't serve her, restaurant owner Karim Souki said.

"She had dinner here. She called later to see if we found her glasses and we found them," Souki said. He said Goldman volunteered to return them.

Neighbor Beverly Newman told the Daily News that she had often seen Goldman playing with Simpson's children.

The Victims



NICOLE BROWN SIMPSON



RON GOLDMAN

Daughter of 'tiger mom' Chua picked as Kavanaugh law clerk

WASHINGTON (AP)—The daughter of Yale Law School professor and "tiger mom" Amy Chua, who praised Justice Brett Kavanaugh as a mentor to women after his nomination to the Supreme Court, is going to work for Kavanaugh this summer.

Yale Law graduate Sophia Chua-Rubinfeld will serve as a law clerk to Kavanaugh for a year, beginning this summer, the court confirmed Monday. Chua-Rubinfeld had planned to work for Kavanaugh when he served as a federal appeals court judge, but his Supreme Court nomination intervened.

Shortly after the nomina-

tion, Chua penned a Wall Street Journal essay extolling Kavanaugh "as a mentor for young lawyers, particularly women."

Chua, who wrote a book called "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" that describes her tough Chinese-style parenting on her two daughters, said she came to know Kavanaugh because she served on the Yale panel that sought to place graduates in prestigious federal clerkships. She said she helped eight women and two men get jobs in his court office



Kavanaugh

over a decade.

"These days the press is full of stories about powerful men exploiting or abusing female employees. That makes it even more striking to hear Judge Kavanaugh's female clerks speak of his decency and his role as a fierce champion of their careers," Chua wrote.

The essay was published before a woman came forward alleging Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her during a party decades ago, when both were teenagers. Kavanaugh angrily denied the allegations.

Utah ski resort wants out of lawsuit against Gwyneth Paltrow

PARK CITY, Utah

(AP)—A Utah ski resort where Gwyneth Paltrow is accused of crashing into and injuring a skier asked Monday to be dismissed from a lawsuit, contending the dispute should



Paltrow

be settled between the Oscar-winning actress and the alleged victim.

Deer Valley Resort is shielded from responsibilities for skiing collisions under a law that takes into account the inherent dangers of skiing, said attorney Adam Strachan, representing the well-known resort during a hearing in Park City, Utah.

He compared the resort's inclusion in the lawsuit to parking lot owner being sued

by a driver who was hit in a fender by another driver.

"Deer Valley simply has no place in this litigation," Strachan said.

Lawrence Buhler, an attorney for the man suing the resort

and Paltrow, countered that Deer Valley is responsible for the actions of a ski instructor who was with Paltrow and her family on Feb. 26, 2016. That instructor berated the injured skier and didn't call ski patrol for help, Buhler said.

Retired optometrist Terry Sanderson suffered severe emotional distress after the instructor skied up to him as he lay face down in the snow, having suffered a concussion after Paltrow slammed into

him, Buhler said.

The instructor yelled, "What did you do? What did you do," the attorney said. The instructor then lifted Sanderson up on to his skis and skied off with Paltrow and her family, he said.

"He could have been dead, he could have had a broken neck," Buhler said.

Paltrow wasn't at Monday's hearing. The lawsuit filed against her in January will continue no matter what the judge rules about the ski resort's request to be dismissed. State judge Kent Holmberg said he'll rule at a later date.

Paltrow said in a counter claim that Sanderson was actually the one who plowed into her from behind and that he is trying to exploit her celebrity and wealth.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION



We, the family of the late

†Isabel Cabrera Sablan Maratita

would like to express our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of our relatives and friends (near and far), and The Class of 1973. We have been blessed and humbled by many acts of grace, form of prayers, genuine affections, and other numerous acts of kindness...

As difficult as our loss has been on our entire family, we are forever grateful with your compassion, and tireless support bestowed upon on us in our time of sorrow and sadness.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Salamat Po'
Melchor U. Maratita, Children & Family

Infowars to pay \$15K for unauthorized Pepe the Frog posters

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conspiracy-promoting website Infowars will pay \$15,000 to resolve a copyright infringement lawsuit over its sales of a poster featuring the image of Pepe the Frog, a cartoon character that was hijacked by far-right extremists and racist

internet trolls.

"Infowars" show host Alex Jones on Monday signed his companies' settlement agreement with Pepe's creator, Matt Furie. The California-based artist said he didn't authorize Infowars to sell a "MAGA" poster that depicts Pepe alongside images of Jones, President Donald Trump, far-right

agitator Milo Yiannopoulos and other right-wing figures.

Louis Tompros, one of Furie's attorneys, said the settlement amount is more than the \$14,000 that Infowars made from sales of the poster. He said his client plans to donate the extra \$1,000 to Save the Frogs!, a California-based conservation organization.

"This was more than we would have gotten at trial, and it saves the expense of a trial," Tompros said.

An article posted on Infowars' website calls it a "strategic victory" for Jones. One of his attorneys, Marc Randazza, said Furie's lawyers had sought more than \$1 million from Jones but ultimately

settled for a fraction of that after a costly legal fight.

"That ought to be a message to anyone who wants to file a politically motivated, anti-free speech lawsuit against him," Randazza said.

The settlement agreement comes less than a month after a judge's ruling drastically limited the amount of money that Furie could recover from Infowars. U.S. District Judge Michael Fitzgerald decided that Furie was precluded from seeking statutory damages and attorneys' fees.

That ruled out the possibility of a six- or seven-figure judgment. Tompros said plaintiffs' lawyers expected to ask a jury to award roughly \$14,000, which represents Infowars' profits from its sale of the poster.

The judge also refused to throw out the case last month. Infowars' lawyers argued the poster's depiction of Pepe was "fair use," but Fitzgerald ruled a jury must decide that question. A jury trial for Furie's lawsuit was scheduled to begin July 16 in Los Angeles.

The settlement agreement calls for Infowars to destroy any copies of the poster in its possession and bars the site

from selling any more copies. Infowars also agreed not to sell anything else with Pepe's likeness without a license to do so.

Infowars attorney Robert Barnes said the settlement has no confidentiality clause because Jones "wanted to tell the world" how little he is paying.

"This is an amount we would have been willing to pay from the very beginning," Barnes added.

Furie's "chill frog-dude" debuted in a 2006 comic book called "Boy's Club" and became a popular canvas for benevolent internet memes. But the user-generated mutations grew increasingly hateful and ubiquitous more than a year before the 2016 presidential election, when Furie's creation became an online mascot for white nationalists, neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremists.

The Anti-Defamation League branded Pepe as a hate symbol in September 2016 and promoted Furie's efforts to reclaim the character. Last year, Furie resolved a separate copyright infringement lawsuit that accused a Missouri woman of misusing the character to sell hate-promoting oil paintings.

Country music fans erupt for Lil Nas X at CMA Fest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rapper Lil Nas X may have been deemed not country enough by Billboard, but he got plenty of support from country music fans and artists when he made his debut CMA Fest performance.

Fans were chanting for "Old Town Road" about an hour before he appeared on the CMA Fest stage in Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee, on Saturday. The crowd roared with excitement when the 20-year-old rapper came out in a sparkly orange denim suit and white cowboy hat and boots with Billy Ray Cyrus on guitar and Keith Urban on banjo. He may only have one song that anybody knows, but the crowds in the stadium reacted as if Taylor Swift had been there.

Anticipation for his appearance was high as he had played a much smaller performance earlier in the week at Blake Shelton's Ole Red Nashville bar at a Spotify artist showcase. There, even country group Midland and Phillip Sweet of the band Little Big



Musical artist Lil Nas X performs at HOT 97 Summer Jam 2019 at MetLife Stadium on Sunday, June 2, 2019, in East Rutherford, New Jersey. (

Town were among the fans who came out to his late show on a tiny rooftop stage.

The cowboy-themed country trap song has sat on the top of the Hot 100 list for 10 weeks, spawned social media memes and dances and

prompted numerous think pieces about black cowboy culture and the state of country music.

John Marks, global head of country for Spotify, called Lil Nas X a "cultural moment."

"To me, it's expanding the

probabilities and possibilities for music and country music at large," Marks said. "I think it has the potential to open new doors to country music to new fans and really truly give a boost to overall consumption numbers in country music."

the soulful musical by Anais Mitchell based on an ancient Greek myth, which triumphed over much more traditionally commercial fare.

The victory of "Hadestown" was also notable for the number of women it brought to the podium; it was not only written by a woman but also directed by one, and producer Mara Isaacs accepted the award. Director Rachel Chavkin won her own Tony, as did Mitchell for best score. In all, "Hadestown" won eight Tonys.

But despite a great night for a show that began its long, improbable journey to Broadway as a community theater project in rural Vermont, Chavkin echoed a note of frustration about the persistent lack of diversity on creative teams.

"I wish I wasn't the only woman directing a musical on Broadway this season," she said. "There are so many women who are ready to go. There are so many artists of color who are ready to go. ... This is not a pipeline issue. It is a failure of imagination by a field whose job is to imagine the way the world could be."

Tony highlights: A historic win and a strong night for women

NEW YORK (AP)—When effervescent actress Ali Stroker came onstage to accept her historic trophy as the first actor in a wheelchair to win a Tony, it wasn't just the feel-good moment of the night. It may have been one of the most joyous Tony moments in years.

The crowd jumped to its

feet in unison as Stroker, who won best featured actress in a musical for a sexy, saucy performance as Ado Annie in "Oklahoma!" arrived onstage.

"This award is for every kid who is watching tonight who has a disability, who has a limitation or a challenge, who has been waiting to see

themselves represented in this arena," she said. "You are."

The buoyant moment was emblematic of a feel-good evening at the Tonys that featured crowd-pleasing performances, a Broadway-loving host in the form of James Corden and a theme of inclusivity. The big winner: "Hadestown,"



Ali Stroker accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical for "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!" at the 73rd annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday, June 9, 2019, in New York. AP

Woodstock 50 fate in doubt but organizers say in talks with venue

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y.

(AP)—The fate of the Woodstock 50 festival was unclear Monday when the host of the event pulled out, but organizers said they were in talks with another venue.

The festival has faced a series of setbacks, and the latest came Monday afternoon, when Watkins Glen International announced it's not hosting the anniversary event in August.

Watkins Glen issued a two-sentence statement saying it had terminated the site license for the upstate New York festival "pursuant to provisions of the contract."

But later in the day, a principal organizer indicated the show would go on.

"We are in discussions with another venue to host Woodstock 50 on August 16th, 18th and look forward to sharing the new location when tickets go on sale in the coming weeks," said Gregory Peck, a managing member of organizers of Woodstock 50 LLC.

The announcements came after months of turmoil.

Financial backer Amplifi Live announced in April it was canceling the festival and took back about \$18 million—the remains of the \$49 million it had put in. Production company Superfly soon dropped out after tangling with organizers over how many people the Watkins Glen site could

accommodate.

Woodstock co-founder and 50th anniversary festival organizer Michael Lang filed a lawsuit against the investor and insisted the show was still on. A judge ruled May 16 that Amplifi, an arm of Japan-based marketing firm Dentsu, couldn't singlehandedly call off the show but also couldn't have to put the \$18 million back into it while the dispute headed to arbitration.

Legal skirmishes have continued, but Woodstock 50 has so far lost bids to regain the \$18 million. The organizers have said investment bank Oppenheimer & Co. signed on as a financial adviser to pull money together.

Meanwhile, the lawsuit shed light on how much work lay ahead. Major improvements, including roads and a temporary water system, needed to be made to the racetrack site, according to court documents and testimony. And the total number of attendees—and, therefore, ticket sales—had been called into question, with organizers envisioning 150,000, but Superfly saying 65,000 was the "safe and appropriate capacity," according to the documents.

The tentative lineup includes Jay-Z, Santana, Miley Cyrus, John Fogerty, Dead & Company and Imagine Dragons.

Court agrees to listen to Led Zeppelin in 'Stairway' appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—“Stairway to Heaven” will get another hearing, this time to a packed house.

A panel of 11 judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed Monday to hear Led Zeppelin's appeal in a copyright lawsuit alleging the group

stole its 1971 rock epic from an obscure 1960s instrumental.

In a 2016 trial that included testimony from Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robert Plant, a jury found that “Stairway to Heaven” did not significantly resemble the song “Taurus,” written by

New York City street named for rapper Notorious B.I.G.

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City street has been named for rapper Notorious B.I.G.

Community members and elected officials gathered in a downpour on Monday at the intersection of St. James Place and Fulton Street.

Rapper Lil' Kim—embracing the event's themes of social justice and making a difference—exclaimed: “We

did it, Brooklyn!”

B.I.G., who was born Christopher Wallace, was shot to death in Los Angeles in 1997.

He detailed street life in Brooklyn in songs and on albums that dominated the pop charts.

Voletta Wallace recalled telling a friend amid her heartbreak: “My son was well loved.”

But she said the street naming evoked “happy tears.”



the late Randy Wolfe and performed by his band Spirit.

Page said he wrote the music for the song and Plant the lyrics,

and that both were original.

But in September, a three-judge panel from the 9th Circuit ruled that the judge at the

trial had failed to advise the jury properly, and ordered a new trial. The judges unanimously found that the trial judge was wrong to

In this Oct. 9, 2012 file photo, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, left, and singer Robert Plant appear at a news conference ahead of the worldwide theatrical release of “Celebration Day,” a concert film of their 2007 London O2 arena reunion show, in New York.

tell jurors that individual elements of a song such as its notes or scale may not qualify for copyright protection, because a combination of those elements may qualify if they are sufficiently original.

Led Zeppelin's lawyers moved to the next level of appeal, asking for the larger group of judges to rehear the case, and the request was granted. The 11-judge panel will hear the case in late September in San Francisco.

Cellphone-focused video service Quibi is planned for April 2020

NEW YORK (AP)—There's yet another new streaming service coming in the next year.

Quibi's twist is that it's focused on short videos for cellphones. Spokeswoman Gina Stikes confirmed Monday that Quibi will launch in April 2020 and cost \$5 a month with ads and \$8 a month without ads.

It's run by big names—Jeffrey Katzenberg, the former Disney chairman and co-founder of DreamWorks Ani-

mation, and Meg Whitman, the former head of eBay and Hewlett-Packard—and it has attracted top Hollywood stars to make videos. It has raised \$1 billion to pay for content and expects to raise \$500 million for business purposes including marketing.

It would enter an increasingly crowded market of subscription streaming video services, including upcoming offerings from Disney, Apple and AT&T.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Women make up roughly half of all executives in animation, but a study released Monday says the numbers fall significantly when it comes to female directors and other leadership roles in the industry.

The study by the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative and the nonprofit advocacy group Women in Animation said that in the past 12 years, only 3% of animated film directors were women and only one, “Kung Fu Panda 2” director Jennifer Yuh Nelson, was a woman of color.

In some areas, like producing, animation has better female representation than live-action films. The study found that women made up 37% of producers on the 120 animated films surveyed going back to 2007. On live-action features, women make up about 15% of producers.

“The proportion of women in this leadership role in animation, and the progress made in the last decade indicates that there are spaces where the industry is taking inclusion seriously and affecting change,” said initiative director Stacy L. Smith in a statement.

Women also made up 13% of directors of popular animated television shows from 2018, the only year covered by the study. But women of color were underrepresented in all areas.

Women are also outnumbered in below-the-line roles like head of story, lead animators and art directors, the

study found.

And in front of the camera, only 20 of the top 120 animated features across the past 12 years had a female lead or co-lead. Of those, three, “Moana,” “The Princess and the Frog,” and “Smurfs: The

Lost Village,” had a woman of color as the protagonist.

Marge Dean, the president of Women in Animation, says a better understanding of the numbers will help push the industry toward achieving 50-50 gender representation by 2025.



In this Sunday, May 22, 2011, file photo, director Jennifer Yuh Nelson arrives at the premiere of “Kung Fu Panda 2,” in Los Angeles.

Prince Philip marks 98th birthday in private

LONDON (AP)—Senior royals are congratulating Prince Philip as the husband of Queen Elizabeth II celebrates his 98th birthday in private.

In a tweet Monday, the royal family wished Philip “a very happy” birthday.

The British Army plans to fire

gun salutes in Philip's honor. The Army tweeted that it is “determined to make it a good one.”

Some of Philip's children and grandchildren also posted tributes.

Philip has officially retired from public life although he is still occasionally seen with

the queen at official events. He skipped President Donald Trump's visit. He still drives a horse-drawn carriage on private grounds from time to time but has stopped driving cars since a serious car accident in January. He gave up his driver's license at the time.

Old friend's new lifestyle alters time spent together

DEAR ABBY: My wife, “Libby's,” dearest friend of 20 years, “Melanie,” has changed her lifestyle. Melanie and her husband have become “swingers.” Now when Libby meets her socially, all Melanie can talk about is her new lifestyle -- complete with photos. Plus Melanie is very interested in meeting men when they are out together.

I don't like what she and her husband are doing, and I don't like my wife being exposed to swinging and meeting men. Libby says Melanie is an old friend, and she doesn't want to end their relationship. She says I have nothing to worry about because she isn't interested in this lifestyle. The problem is, I still worry, and I'm not comfortable with this. Could you please advise me on what I should do?

FAITHFUL IN DALLAS

DEAR FAITHFUL: It would be interesting to know why Melanie brings Libby along when she's looking for men. (Is she using your wife as “bait”?) It would also be interesting to know how Libby feels when men show an interest in her friend and she is sitting there like a third wheel.

Of course, the bottom line is how this makes you feel, and do you trust your wife. If this is a regular thing, I can see how it would make you uncomfortable. Consider suggest-

ing to Libby that rather than go out for the evening with Melanie, they meet for lunch instead.

DEAR ABBY: My sister recently confided that her husband has about \$100,000 in credit card debt. “Sis” bailed him out five years ago to the tune of \$400,000, just ahead of bankruptcy. Why she didn't divorce him then, I don't know. She says she doesn't love or respect him, and he does nothing for their home or for her. On top of that, he's emotionally abusive.

My sister has worked hard and lived frugally so she could retire. She paid off both mortgages on their house. In our community property state, he would get half her large retirement and half the property. I suggested she divorce him two years ago. She said she wanted to, but didn't.

I'm so mad at him I want to shame him publicly on Facebook because FB is the ONLY thing he cares about besides spending money. He portrays himself on FB as a caring, compassionate guy and a true friend. Maybe his “friends” should know the truth. What else would get through to him? He says he can build debt because she'll always pay it off.

HAVE MY SISTER'S BACK

DEAR HAVE: I'm sorry you didn't mention why your

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

sister has chosen to stay with someone she doesn't love or respect and who mistreats her. Please suggest to her that for her own protection she should make an appointment to talk with an accountant and an attorney to discuss what's going on before her husband's irresponsibility causes her to become indignant.

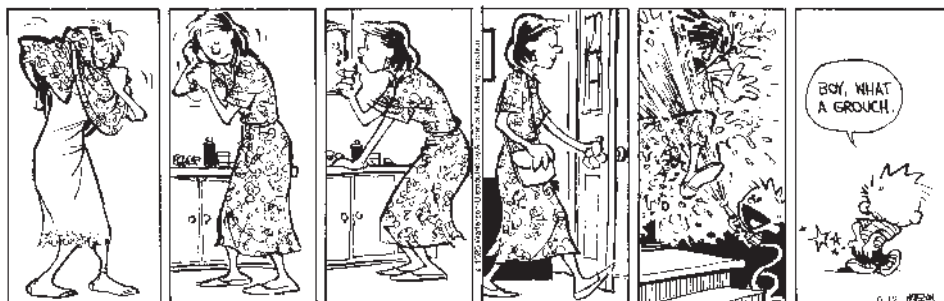
Beyond that, there is nothing you can do besides give her emotional support as you have been doing.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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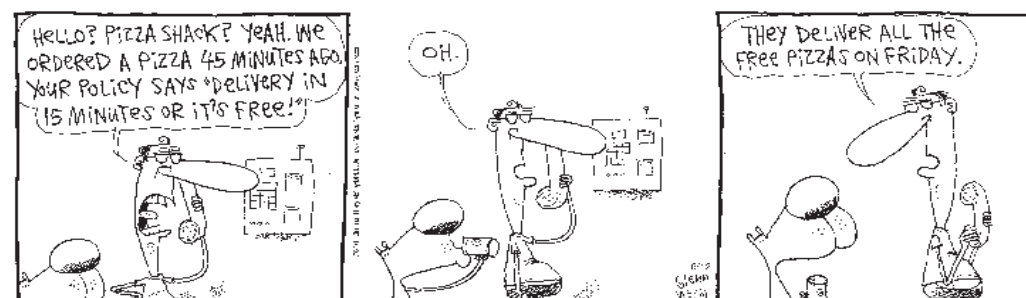
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

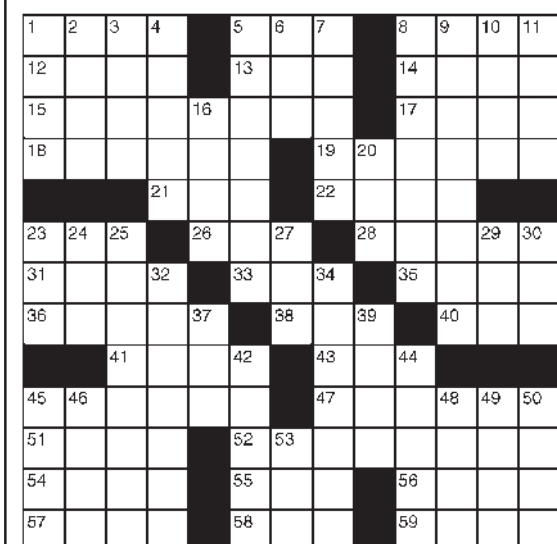
1 "Waterloo" group
5 Director Craven
8 Kill wearer
12 Borscht base
13 Chop
14 Ginormous
15 Baltimore seafood treat
17 Congers
18 "— Little" (film)
19 Sweet-sounding
21 Toe count
22 Jazzy Fitzgerald
23 Lobbying org.
26 Stir-fry pan
28 Succinct
31 "Ameri-can —"
33 Peruke
35 June 6, 1944
36 Casual shirts
38 Ran into
40 Fr. holy woman

DOWN

1 Grade-school basics
2 Ernie's pal
3 Boyfriend
4 Facing the pitcher
5 Impatient inquiry
6 "A spider!"
7 Bjorn Borg, for one
8 Like ready-to-eat walnuts
9 Actor's visual aids
10 Leer at
11 Try out
16 Ship's staff
20 Last (Abbr.)
23 "Great Expectations" lad
24 Fuss
25 Telemarketer's tactic
27 Kipling hero
29 Perched
30 Needle hole
32 Quick glance
34 Refined
37 Costa del —
39 O'Hara estate
42 Pilgrimage site
44 Small pack animal
45 Easter entrees
46 Director Kazan
48 Garbage barge
49 Toothpaste holder
50 British gun
53 Floral necklace

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-12



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dave Franco, 34; Robyn, 40; Scott Thompson, 60; Timothy Busfield, 62.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on your relationships this year. Learn from experience, and choose to take your time when dealing with emotional issues. Spending unnecessarily or for the wrong reason should be dealt with quickly in order to ease stress. Learn to love who you are, and choose to be around people who treat you with respect and equality. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 27, 30, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn as you go, and don't be fooled or put in a position by someone who is demanding or overbearing. Concentrate on self-improvement, personal growth and doing what's best for yourself. Align yourself with like-minded people. Romance is highlighted. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful while traveling or dealing with people in authoritative positions. Abide by the rules, and avoid situations that might implicate you as an accomplice. Pay attention; you'll turn a negative situation into a positive. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal improvements, spending time with children or your lover or reviewing a relationship you have with someone and making adjustments that will encourage togetherness or greater equality will help you move in a positive direction. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Truth matters. Get the facts, and consider what's best for yourself. Emotional situations will

develop if you let someone meddle in your affairs. Before making a change, consider the consequences. Be reasonable. Don't share personal secrets. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make positive adjustments to the way you live. Call upon someone you've helped in the past to get some valuable input as well as hands-on help. Don't make comparisons or let what others have or do influence you. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in organizations or events that interest you. What you contribute will be well-received and encourage you to get involved in other projects that will bring you in contact with people who share your sentiments. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An opportunity is within reach. Don't miss out because someone is playing with your emotions. If you don't follow your heart and your dreams, you will have regrets and resent that you let someone stand in your way. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new possibilities, but stay within budget. Keeping your life balanced will be difficult. You'll be faced with temptation as well as opportunity. Use your intelligence and experience to help you do what's best. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can participate without taking on more than you can handle. Make it clear what you are willing to offer, and avoid any misunderstanding that puts you in an awkward position. Personal changes can be made that will improve your love life. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen to what others have to say, and make plans and changes that will please everyone, including yourself. Keeping the peace and avoiding emotional discord are in your best interest and will serve you well when you ask for help. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change at home will help lower your overhead. Roll up your sleeves and do the work required to reach your goal. A physical improvement will boost your morale. Plan something romantic for the evening hours. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Consider your options and the effects they will have on those you love or work with before you begin. Work with the majority to get the help you need to accomplish what's best for everyone. ★★

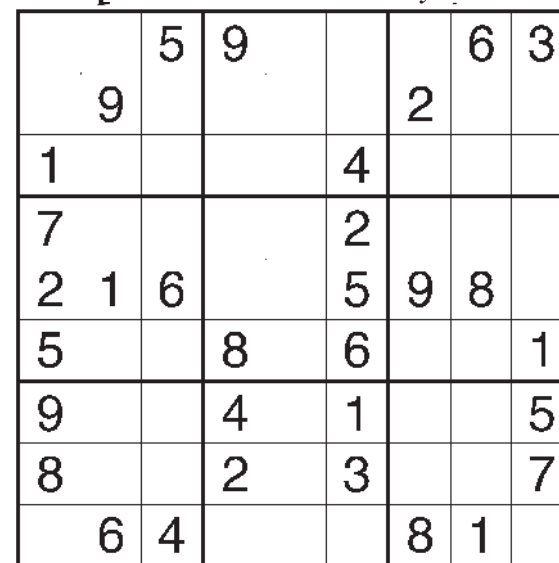
Birthday Baby: You are emotional, caring and helpful. You are receptive and playful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

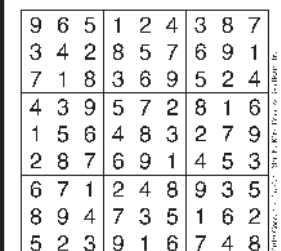


Difficulty Level ★★

6/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



6/12

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BAUBLES, TRINKETS & KNICKKNACKS Solution: 11 letters

T K S B M E R A W M E T S F G
E C E I T E N G A M C H V L L
G I H J E R M S R E O H A E A
D M C O O T M A J W S S S H M
A M O U T E H B Y U S R E S I
G I O X T C O L L E C T I O N
S G R I A A H P S S L E G N A
O Y B N R Y E K C I H O O D N
U T D T B U D I E G E M S E H
V L D F O R C T E A C U P S L
E E E I A Y C A R B A C I R B
N V C G E W G A W E O D D S A
I O O R N A M E N T H I N G S
R N R A N D O M I O A S D N E
S M A L L E U T A T S T U F F

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Angels, Animal, Base, Bijoux, Bric-a-brac, Brooches, Candle, Charm, Collection, Curio, Decor, Dish, Doohickey, Dragons, Ends, Gadget, Gems, Gewgaw, Gift, Gimmick, Glasses, Items, Magnet, Novelty, Object, Odds, Ornament, Pen, Plush, Random, Shelf, Showy, Small, Souvenir, Statue, Sternware, Stuff, Tchotchke, Teacup, Things, Tote Bag, Toy, Tree, Vase
Yesterday's Answer: Mollusks
Treasures 13 through 18 and 20 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Warriors stay alive with Game 5 victory

TORONTO (AP)—The Golden State Warriors aren't letting go of the NBA title just yet.

With Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson shooting and Draymond Green swatting, the champions found a way to win even after a gut-wrenching loss.

Curry scored 31 points, Thompson added 26 and they led a season-saving surge long after Kevin Durant was injured again to give the Warriors a 106-105 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Monday night in Game 5 of the NBA Finals.

Devastated by the loss of Durant, the All-Stars that the Warriors had left made sure there was celebration along with their sadness, pulling out what Green thought had to be the greatest win during their run to five straight NBA Finals.

"When you're down six with a couple minutes to go in an elimination for these guys to win a championship, we could have thrown in the towel. We could have folded, but we didn't," Green said. "I said it before: I've never seen this group fold. And that stands true still."

Curry and Thompson, nicknamed the Splash Brothers, combined for three straight 3-pointers in the closing minutes after Toronto had taken a six-point lead with under 3½ minutes remaining in front of a raucous, red-shirted crowd.

"Even going down six with three minutes left, their ball, we didn't panic," Thompson said. "We just do what we do."

The Warriors lost Durant barely a quarter after getting him back but got the win, cutting Toronto's lead to 3-2 and sending the series back to Oracle Arena for Game 6 on Thursday.



Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, left, falls over Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka, bottom, as Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) looks on during first-half basketball game action in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto, Monday, June 10, 2019.

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points for the Raptors but couldn't get the final shot, which went to Kyle Lowry and was blocked by Green.

The two-time defending champion Warriors were minutes away from their title reign ending, having lost Durant and a 14-point lead during an emotionally exhausting game. They had controlled Leonard for three quarters, but he scored 10 straight Toronto

points in the fourth and the Raptors were close to their first championship and a party that would have stretched coast to coast in Canada.

But even after everything the Warriors had lost, they still had two of the best perimeter shooters in the world on the floor. Thompson hit a 3, and Curry followed with one to tie it at 103. Golden State got it back to Thomp-

son and the Raptors lost sight of him just long enough for the tiebreaking shot with 57 seconds to go.

Toronto cut it to one when Kyle Lowry was credited with a basket and the Raptors got a final chance when DeMarcus Cousins was called for an illegal screen. Leonard had the ball but the Warriors forced him to pass and it ended up in the corner to Lowry, but Green

sprinted over to get a hand on his shot as the buzzer sounded.

"He got a piece of it, that's what great defenders do," Lowry said. "He got a piece of it and we'll continue to look at it and see how we can be better for the next game."

Cousins had 14 points for the Warriors and Green finished with 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

Golden State is the only team to lose a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals, when Cleveland came back to win in 2016.

Now the Warriors have a chance to pull off the feat themselves, but it became more difficult after Durant limped off in the second quarter after he had missed the previous nine games with a strained right calf.

"We understand the moment and I think we can rally, considering how the second half went tonight," Curry said.

Durant, the two-time NBA Finals MVP, was attempting to dribble past Serge Ibaka early in the second quarter when he suddenly came to a stop, lost the ball and limped sideways before grabbing at his lower right calf as he fell to the court.

Fans at first cheered but then, spurred in part by some Raptors players, chanted "KD! KD!" as he was helped to the locker room area joined by Curry, Andre Iguodala and general manager Bob Myers.

Durant left the arena on crutches with what a tearful Myers said was an Achilles tendon injury and the Warriors said he would get an MRI on Tuesday.

They were initially OK without him because Cousins—who returned from injury himself in this series—came off the bench to score their next seven points before feeding Green for a layup that gave them a 48-37 lead. It got as high as 13 on Curry's four-point play, and Golden State led 62-56 at halftime.

But eventually it would come down to Curry and Thompson, who both logged more than 41 minutes and will have to be ready to go again Thursday in what will be the final game in Oracle Arena.

Lowry had 18 points and Marc Gasol scored 17 for the Raptors, who were trying to give Canada its first championship in one of the traditional major sports since the Blue Jays won the World Series in 1993.

Fans had been waiting through on-and-off rain all day—some since Sunday—to watch at one of the outdoor watch parties that have popped up in and around Toronto. The crowd inside the arena that included hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky and former Raptors star Vince Carter thought it would witness history as Leonard powered past his defenders repeatedly in the fourth quarter.

Injured Durant returns, hurts his Achilles

TORONTO (AP) — Golden State forward Kevin Durant has an injured right Achilles, a massive blow for the perennial All-Star and two-time NBA Finals MVP who may be three weeks away from free agency and could also be facing a long rehabilitation process.

Warriors general manager Bob Myers was teary when he gave the news after Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Monday night. An MRI will be performed Tuesday to determine the severity, but Durant's season is clearly over and his recovery will likely take several months if the Achilles is indeed torn.

"He's one of the most misunderstood people," Myers said. "He's a good teammate, he's a good person, it's not fair. I'm lucky to know him."

I don't have all the information on what really the extent of what it all means until we get a MRI, but the people that worked with him and cleared him are good people, they're good people."

Myers said Durant's first injury of this postseason was a calf injury, as the Warriors have insisted throughout. Myers also said that he is willing to accept the blame for the decision to play Durant in Game 5.

Golden State won 106-105, cutting Toronto's lead in the NBA Finals to 3-2.

"I don't believe there's anybody to blame, but I understand in this world and if you have to, you can blame me," Myers said. "I run our basketball operations department. And to tell you some-

thing about Kevin Durant, Kevin Durant loves to play basketball, and the people that questioned whether he wanted to get back to this team were wrong."

Durant got hurt on a dribble on the right wing, coming up lame on a crossover move and falling to the floor. He grabbed the back of his leg, appeared to grab below the calf and more toward the Achilles area, and needed help to limp to the bench area and more help to get back to the Warriors' locker room. Warriors forward Andre Iguodala was on Durant's left side as they made the long walk back to the room, with Myers and Stephen Curry in the group immediately behind them.

"It sucks. I feel so bad for

him, his camp," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "He's going to come back stronger though. That's the kind of fighter he is and I'm going to miss him, man. It's not the same being out there without him."

Durant shouted an expletive as he left the floor, his frustration obvious. He was supposed to be one of the marquee free agents this summer. He may now end up exercising his \$31.5 million option to stay with the Warriors, especially if he's going to be sidelined for an extended period.

"I'm hurting deep in the soul right now," Durant wrote on Instagram after the game.

His season is over. The Warriors' season isn't. "We do it for Kevin," Thompson said.



Trout hits tying HR as Angels rally past Dodgers



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout hit

a tying two-run homer in the seventh, and Shohei Ohtani slid home from third with the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning of the Los Angeles Angels' 5-3 comeback victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday night.

After Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched the Dodgers to a 3-1 lead through six innings and a chance at his seventh consecutive victory, the Angels rallied against the Dodgers' bullpen to win the Freeway Series opener at a sold-out Angel Stadium.

One inning after Trout dramatically tied it with a two-out homer off Dylan Floro, the Angels scored two runs without a hit off beleaguered Dodgers reliever Joe Kelly (1-3).

Ohtani drew a leadoff walk as a pinch-hitter, advancing to second on Kelly's throwing error and getting to third on a wild pitch. Wilfredo Tovar hit a short grounder to third with the bases loaded, but Ohtani sped home as Max Muncy's high throw pulled Russell Martin's foot off the plate.

Brian Goodwin then scored on the second wild pitch of the inning by Kelly, whose rough debut season in the Dodgers' bullpen got even worse.

Chris Taylor had an early two-run double for the Dodgers, who went scoreless in the final seven innings and lost for only the fourth time in 17 games.

Ty Buttrey (4-2) escaped a two-on, nobody out jam of his own making in the eighth for the Angels, who had lost five of seven heading into their inter-league rivalry series against the major league-leading Dodgers, who had won 13 of 16.

Hansel Robles gave up two leadoff singles in the ninth, but covered first to finish a game-ending double play in his eighth save.

Diamondbacks 13, Phillies 8

In Philadelphia, the Arizona Diamondbacks hit three straight home runs to open the game and finished with a team-record eight in a win over the Phillies during a homer-happy game on Monday night.

Scott Kingery hit two of Philadelphia's five home runs for the combined MLB record of 13 homers in one game.

Jarrod Dyson, Ketel Marte and David Peralta hit consec-



Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout, right, congratulates shortstop Wilfredo Tovar, left, after the Angels defeat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 in a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Monday, June 10, 2019.

runs for Pittsburgh.

Atlanta has won four straight, while the Pirates are on a four-game skid.

Nationals 12, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Trea Turner homered in the second straight game, Anibal Sanchez pitched into the seventh and Washington beat the White Sox.

The game had a scary moment when a woman was struck by a foul ball off the bat of White Sox outfielder Eloy Jimenez. He hit a hard liner into the stands in the fourth inning just beyond Chicago's dugout on the third base side. The woman, sitting several rows from the field, was bleeding around the head area, and was covered with a towel. The team said she was taken to a hospital for evaluation. She was alert and communicative.

Rockies 6, Cubs 5

In Denver, Ryan McMahon had a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning, and Colorado rallied for the win.

Ian Desmond hit a 486-foot homer, and Nolan Arenado and Charlie Blackmon also went deep for the Rockies, who trailed 4-0 early but still won their ninth straight at home.

Anthony Rizzo, Kyle Schwarber and David Bote homered for the Cubs.

Steve Cishek (1-3) gave up two hits in the ninth.

Scott Oberg (4-0) got the win.

tive homers off Jerad Eickhoff in the first inning. Eduardo Escobar became the first Diamondback to homer from different sides of the plate in consecutive innings. Ildemaro Vargas also homered twice and Alex Avila went deep.

Eickhoff (3-4) was chased in the fourth inning and the Diamondbacks up 7-3. He allowed five hits in three-plus inning — all the hits homers, and Arizona won its fifth straight game.

Rangers 4, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Danny Santana doubled to lead off the 11th inning for his fourth hit of the game and scored on Elvis Andrus' single, giving Texas a victory on a night the Celtics' concerns were focused on slugger David Ortiz.

Near the end of the game, Ortiz landed in his adopted city in an air ambulance from the Dominican Republic, where he was shot in a nightclub on Sunday night. Fans observed a moment of reflection before the game and chanted his nickname — "Papi!" — during it.

But the Red Sox weren't able to manage a walk-off hit like those that were the hallmark of Ortiz's career.

It was the Rangers who rallied from a 2-1 deficit in the ninth inning to take a 3-2 lead. Boston rallied to tie it in the bottom half, but Texas went ahead again in the 11th.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 1

In Miami, Michael Wacha pitched six scoreless innings in his return to the rotation and St. Louis broke a three-game

losing streak.

Wacha (4-2) benefited from three double plays and a pickoff in his first start since May 22. He allowed five hits, struck out four and lowered his ERA to 5.63.

Jordan Hicks worked around a leadoff single in the ninth and struck out two for his 13th save.

Sandy Alcantara (3-6), facing his former team for the first time, struggled through five-plus innings and allowed four runs, but only one was earned.

Rays 6, Athletics 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Charlie Morton remained unbeaten with Tampa Bay, pitching

seven shutout innings in a win over Oakland.

Brandon Lowe homered for the third time in two days, snapping a scoreless tie in the sixth inning and helping the Rays take over sole possession of the first place in the AL East with their sixth victory in seven games. The New York Yankees, who were rained out at home, dropped a half-game behind in the standings.

Morton (8-0) extended his career-best winning streak to 11 games dating to Aug. 17, when he was with the Houston Astros. He allowed two hits to Marcus Semien and retired the last 14 batters he faced.

Stephen Piscotty ruined Tampa Bay's bid for a shutout, driving in Mark Canah with an RBI double and then scoring on Robbie Grossman's run-scoring single in the ninth.

Braves 13, Pirates 7

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a grand slam, Ozzie Albies added two homers and the Braves beat Pittsburgh after Pirates starter Joe Musgrove was ejected in a first-inning fracas.

The Braves hit five homers, including two-run shots by Nick Markakis (four hits, four RBIs) and Freddie Freeman.

Starling Marte hit two homers and drove in four

Wentz not letting record contract change motivation



PHILADELPHIA—Despite multiple health issues and still having ample time to get a deal done, the Philadelphia Eagles have committed to quarterback Carson Wentz.

Wentz signed a \$128 million, four-year extension with the Eagles last week, keeping him under contract with the organization through 2024. More than \$107 million of his deal is guaranteed, making it the largest guarantee for a quarterback in league history.

While he still had plenty of time to figure out an extension—he was still on his rookie deal after completing his third season in the league—Wentz saw the new deal as beneficial for both sides, which is why he went for it now.

"It was something I think both sides wanted to get done," Wentz said Monday. "I knew I wanted this to be home for a long time, and ever since being drafted it's felt like home."

"As soon as we found something that was a win-win and really a fair opportunity, I jumped at it. I love this place. I want to be here for a while. I feel like it was a good time."

A record-setting deal like that could add a significant amount of pressure to any NFL player. Wentz, though, insisted he isn't going to let that bother him on the field. That pressure, he said, is what he signed up for by joining the league.

"For me, that's not going to change how I prepare, how I focus, how I go out and compete every game," Wentz said. "You just kind of have

to block it out a little bit and just keep doing what you know how to do, and that's just keep getting better every single day. The pressure is always going to be there, so never let it bog me down."

Wentz has had a successful start in Philadelphia when he has been on the field.

After throwing for nearly 3,800 yards and 16 touchdowns in his rookie season, Wentz led the Eagles to an 11-2 start and picked up Pro Bowl honors in 2017. He tore his ACL and LCL in Week 13 that season, however, and had to take a back seat while Nick Foles finished the job and led the Eagles to a Super Bowl win against the New England Patriots.

Wentz played in 11 games last season before calling it a year with a stress fracture in his back.

The Eagles, though, have committed to Wentz as their quarterback—and he's eager to live up to the expectations that come with his new contract.

"I'm going to be the hard working guy, blue collar guy," Wentz said. "That's never going to change ... I'm just as hungry as ever."

Rudolph signs \$36M extension with Vikings

After months of uncertainty, Kyle Rudolph is staying with the Minnesota Vikings.

Rudolph and the Vikings agreed to a four-year, \$36 million extension on Monday night, keeping him in Minnesota through the 2023 season.

The 29-year-old was set to enter the final year of his contract with the Vikings, and talks between both sides on a new deal had stalled for weeks.

Analysis: Stop thinking Nadal can't comeback

PARIS (AP)—This time, about a month out, even Rafael Nadal had his doubts about what his chances were going to be for yet another French Open title.

He wasn't alone. But that part was nothing new: Folks have been questioning him for years, wondering when his body would break down for good, when his impossible-to-believe run of success at Roland Garros would stop, when someone new would come along with the skill, strength and stamina to knock the crown off the King of Clay's head.

This time, it was Nadal who was filled with real worry. He entered May without a title, the first season since 2004 that happened to him. He missed the end of last season with a bad right knee, needed offseason ankle surgery, then pulled out of a match in March because the knee flared up again. The health concerns, which long had cropped up, were now piling up.

"Too many issues the last 18 months. So that's makes these last few weeks very, very special," Nadal was able to say Sunday night.

"Mentally, I was down. Physically and mentally," he said, rapping his right fingers on his temple. "But for me, I always put more attention on the mental side."

All of that angst he spoke about seemed so irrelevant to anyone watching Nadal as he took a tight final against Dominic Thiem and tore it open, quickly as can be, taking 11 straight points to open the third set and 12 of the last 14 games for a 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory.

That gave Nadal a 12th trophy at Roland Garros and 18 major championships in all, just two behind Roger Federer's record for men.

But here might be the biggest lesson for Nadal himself, and for those who follow, and talk about, tennis: Stop thinking Nadal can't keep coming back and can't keep adding to his resume.



Because he will do whatever it takes to not only stay where he is, but also to get better.

Just one example: Nadal has long been thought of as the ultimate baseliner, someone who will get to every ball back there and wallop it back over the net. Yet there he was in Court Philippe Chatrier, showing off

a less-appreciated aspect of his game, by volleying impeccably and winning 23 of 27 points when he moved forward.

He's constantly putting the work to adjust a stroke or element of strategy.

"He improves and develops his game," Thiem said. "I mean,

if he wouldn't do that, for sure he wouldn't have that success every year in this tournament."

As down as Nadal might have felt, he was not going to give up.

"He had an unbelievable attitude in those bad moments, and that's what took him here today,"

AP
Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after scoring a point against Austria's Dominic Thiem in the men's final match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 9, 2019. Nadal won, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

said Nadal's coach, Carlos Moya, the 1998 French Open champion. "Hats off to what he's done this month and a half, because it's easy to play well when all the things are working well. But what he's been through these last couple of months is showing what a competitor he is and mentally that he's a genius."

Nadal's next tournament will be Wimbledon, where play begins in three weeks. He won't enter a grass-court tuneup event, figuring that time off to rest is what he needs more than anything else.

Inevitably, a reporter brought up the topic of chasing Federer, now that he's so close behind.

And just as inevitably, Nadal played down such talk.

Did it charmingly, too.

"I never tried to think about, 'Well, I'm going to catch Roger' or not. Being honest, I am not very worried about this stuff, no?" Nadal said. "You can't be frustrated all the time because the neighbor has a bigger house than you or a bigger TV or better garden. That's not the way that I see the life, you know."

A moment later, he went on: "If, at the end of my career, I am able to win a couple of more Grand Slams and be closer to Roger, (it) will be unbelievable. If not, for me, still unbelievable, no?"

Nadal said Federer's record was the last thing on his mind before he was asked about it.

What was he thinking about, then?

"Here I am, at the age of 33, enjoying, playing good tennis," Nadal said, "and let's see for how long I am able to manage and to continue this."

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, Calif.

(AP)—Retief Goosen woke up in a hospital room, learning later that his body was blackened, bloodied and lifeless from a lightning strike on a tiny South African golf course.

Dennis Walters couldn't feel anything below his waist and knew his dream of playing professional golf was over.

They were among five people inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in a Monday night ceremony that celebrated success, vision, leadership and a pair of remarkable comebacks.

"The lightning sparked something in me," Goosen said with a wry smile.

Goosen, a two-time U.S. Open champion, and three-time LPGA major champion Jan Stephenson were selected through the competition category. Former Augusta National chairman Billy Payne, the late instructor Peggy Kirk Bell and Walters were chosen through the lifetime achieve-

Goosen, Stephenson among 5 new members of Hall of Fame

ment category.

The induction is now every other year and coincides with big golf events—the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach in this case—with hopes of getting more of the game's dignitaries to attend. There were 28 Hall of Fame members in the audience, many of them U.S. Open champions who will be honored at a dinner later this week.

The induction brings the World Golf Hall of Fame to 160 members. The final selection is by a 16-member panel, the majority golf administrators.

Goosen grew up in Polokwane, a town so small that it still has only one golf course with grass when it rains, sand when it doesn't. Four days short of his 16th birthday, he waited out a rainstorm and headed back out on the course.

His friend was walking 20 yards ahead and was knocked to the ground by the lightning.

"He said he turned around there I was, smoking, no clothes, burned black from head to tail, blood," Goosen said. "He ran to the next hole and there was a group of four guys. To my luck, one was a doctor. He was there in a few minutes and brought me back to life. When I woke up, I was in the hospital, covered in bandages, looking like a mummy. It was a lucky escape. ... Three weeks later, I was back on the golf course. And here we are today."

Walters rolled onto the stage at Sunset Center in his wheelchair and was helped into a pair of walking canes. He took five hops to the podium to deliver a passionate speech about chasing dreams until they end, and then finding another.

A promising amateur, he was 24 when he was paralyzed from the waist down in a golf cart accident. Unable to com-

pete, he found a way to swing from a swivel seat on the back of the cart. Driven to stay in the game, Walters became one of the most popular exhibitionists. He has traveled some 3 million miles to perform in 3,000 appearances, some of them with Tiger Woods.

"Can you believe I'm in the World Golf Hall of Fame before Tiger Woods?" Walters said with a smile.

He most remembers getting notified of his selection from longtime friend Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player, who are among four Hall of Fame members on the panel.

"I can't walk. But when I got that call, I felt like I could fly," Walters said.

He described the last 45 years of going "from the depths of despair to golf's ultimate destination."

Stephenson was among the first to bring sex appeal to

women's golf, part of that the design of former LPGA Tour commissioner Ray Volpe. Stephenson's most famous moment outside the ropes was posing in a bathtub, her body covered only by golf balls.

"They were tumultuous and exciting times that launched my career in a slightly different direction," Stephenson said.

She backed up her celebrity by winning 16 times on the LPGA Tour, including three majors. She was lacking only the Kraft Nabisco Championship—now known as the ANA Inspiration—to complete the career Grand Slam.

Stephenson was part of what she described as "the most competitive and colorful era" for the LPGA Tour, and several others from her generation—from Beth Daniel to Meg Mallon, from Juli Inkster to Pat Bradley—are in the Hall of Fame and watched from the audience.

Payne joins Clifford Roberts as the only Augusta National chairman in the World Golf Hall of Fame. During his 11 years at the home of the Masters, he created amateur events in Asia and Latin America to inspire growth, and he was behind the invitation of the first female members of Augusta National.

"Unlike all of my fellow inductees, I know that I am the outlier here tonight," Payne said. "So let's be clear. It is Augusta National Golf Club that is being honored here tonight. It is the celebration of our efforts to help grow the game."

Kirk Bell was the only posthumous inductee from this year's class. One of the top amateurs in women's golf in the years before the LPGA Tour began, she won the Titleholders by two shots over Patty Berg, the prestigious North and South Women's Amateur and played on the 1950 Curtis Cup team.



Ellis downplays Solo's critical comments

REIMS, France (AP)—U.S. national team coach Jill Ellis has downplayed critical comments made by former goalkeeper Hope Solo, who said the World Cup-winning coach “cracks under pressure.”

Ellis addressed the remarks Monday, a day before the defending champion U.S. team opens World Cup play against Thailand, saying, “Comments are comments.”

“For me, personally, I feel over the past five years I’ve made a lot of important decisions and I have processes to make those decisions, and I own those processes,” Ellis said. “At this point, everything and every focus is about this group of players that are here and now. Pundits, out there, that’s part of it. And part of the message is always to make sure that the focus is on the internal part of the game. And that’s where we are.”

Solo, who is working for the BBC during the tournament and has been known to

make incendiary comments, knocked Ellis on a podcast where she said the coach is “not the leader I wish her to be.”

“She relies heavily on her assistant coaches. She cracks under the pressure quite a bit,” Solo said on the podcast. “But often that doesn’t matter because the quality of the players on the U.S. team is superb. It doesn’t matter who is coaching us because we will find a way to win. The United States knows how to find a way to win in spite of who the coach is.”

Solo made 202 appearances with the national team with 153 wins and an international-record 102 shutouts. She allowed just three goals in seven games and had five shutouts during the team’s 2015 World Cup championship run under Ellis.

Her tenure with the national team ended after the Americans were ousted by Sweden in the quarterfinals during the 2016 Rio Olympics. Afterward, Solo called the Swedes

failed to contain Pagarao. The Kanoa striker went on to finish off Matansa with another pair of goals in the second half after scoring in the 72nd and 86th minute. Marinel Falalimpa and Manami Manglona posted the two goals for Matansa in the second half with the former making a shot in the 73rd and the latter in the 81st.

In the first semis game, Katrina Costales ran the show in Shirley’s rout of Paire. Costales fired six goals, starting her surge in the 38th minute. Her five other goals came in the 45th, 49th, 51st, 55th, and 61st minute. Angie Ito registered the other goal for Shirley’s in the 28th minute.

points has reached 300 and adding her 345 in the singles, the CNMI junior player now has combined ranking points of 420 (300/4+345) and moved up more than 50 notches after her notable showing in Belgium. She started the season ranked No. 175.

The four-time Northern Marianas Sports Association/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Fame Student-Athlete of the Year awardee is on her last year in the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors and holds career records of 100-47 in singles and 61-47 in doubles. This season, she has a 10-7 slate in singles and 4-9 in doubles.

After her series of tournaments in Europe, Lee is scheduled to return to Fiji to train in the regional facility and prepare for the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa where she will be anchoring the CNMI Team.



U.S. national team coach Jill Ellis, right, addressed the remarks made by former goalkeeper Hope Solo a day before the defending champion U.S. team opens World Cup play against Thailand.

Golden Glove for best goalkeeper in Germany in 2011 and in Canada in 2015.

“Obviously, she has an incredible legacy,” Naeher said. “She was a great player for this team and she was a great goalkeeper. She represented this team for a very long time at a high level and she was one of the best goalkeepers in the world for a long time,” Naeher said. “I have a lot of respect for the career that she had.”

Midfielder Julie Ertz said the team is in its World Cup “bubble,” where players shut out distractions.

“Anything you feel like doesn’t keep you focused, we just try to eliminate it,” Ertz said.

cowards for bunkering on defense. The blowback was immediate, and U.S. Soccer suspended Solo and terminated her contract.

The federation maintained the decision was based on a culmination of events. Solo was suspended for 30 days in early 2015 when she and husband Jerramy Stevens were pulled over in a U.S. Soccer-

owned van, and Stevens was charged with DUI.

She was also benched after publicly questioning coach Greg Ryan’s decision to start Briana Scurry against Brazil during the 2007 World Cup, comments that many saw as a slight against Scurry. There was also an off-field altercation with family members in 2014, although charges in that

case were dismissed.

Current goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher said she hadn’t heard the podcast.

“I haven’t been on social media since we left New York, so I’m not really sure what’s going on, to be honest,” Naeher said.

Naeher can’t escape comparisons to Solo, who went to three World Cups and won the

Thailand faces daunting task versus US

REIMS, France (AP)—Thailand can dream. It just might not do any good against the U.S. national team.

Thailand kicks off the Women’s World Cup on Tuesday with a daunting challenge against the defending champion United States. The top-ranked Americans are seeking their fourth overall World Cup title, and Thai-

land coach Nuengruethai Sathongwien said the team is not backing down.

“I think if the dream comes true, we can make history to upset one of the best teams in the world,” Sathongwien said. “And it means Thailand can play with the best teams in the world.”

The Thais are ranked No. 34 in the world but in its 2015

World Cup debut the team finished third in its group with a first win on the sport’s biggest stage, a 3-2 victory over Ivory Coast.

Games against top opponents give Thailand an opportunity to see how the team is progressing, with a goal of growing the game back home.

“We are here in the 24-team final, that is our success,

and to play one of the best teams in the world, that is also a success,” Sathongwien said.

For the United States, success will be another star above its crest.

The Americans charged through Canada four years ago to the final, beating Japan 5-2 to raise the trophy. Carli Lloyd scored three goals in the title game’s first 16 minutes.

KANOA

From Page 28

play in the battle for third place.

Irish Pagarao towed Kanoa to the semis win after scoring four goals. Her back-to-back goals in a span of a minute anchored Kanoa’s early break-away, as their team took a 4-1 halftime lead. Pagarao had her first and second goal in the 30th and 31st minute, while Mary Kay Alferos put Kanoa on the board in the 13th minute, and Sue Anne Huevos delivered the fourth one in the 34th.

Earlier in the 21st minute, Nathanette Blas’ conversion knotted the count, 1-all, but that was it for Matansa, as it

CAROL

From Page 28

naments in Italy and Belgium. She dropped several notches more in the world rankings after her so-so performance in four tournaments in Italy, but made the big leap when she debuted in the Belgian International Junior Championships with a bang.

The Commonwealth bet and her teammate, Skyler Marie Grace Grishuk, won three matches in the Grade 1 tournament to make it to the finals. The duo eventually lost to Russia Veronika Pepelyaeva and Avelina Sayfedinova in the finals, 4-6, 2-6.

Despite the defeat, Lee earned her highest ranking points, as she and Grishuk were awarded 130 markers each for getting the runner-up honors in the Belgian tournament.

Lee’s total doubles ranking

3 CNMI

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Hyejin Elliot, who routed Malarne, 6-0, 6-2, for a 2-1 mark in pool play with two more matches left in the elimination round. In Group B, Serin Chung fought back from her opening day loss with a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over FSM’s Nicole Paterson, while Guam’s Alicia Addison bagged her third straight victory after outclassing No. 2 Ngelittle Silmai of Palau, 6-1, 6-1.

In other results, Palau’s Galyah Mikel shut down Guam’s Randiann Atento in the girls U14 singles, 6-0, 6-0; FSM’s Jones George routed the CNMI’s Eubin Park in the boys U14, 6-1, 6-0; and FSM’s Anne Skilling topped the CNMI’s Maria Gregoire in the girls U16singles, 6-2, 6-0.

In the U12 team competition, the CNMI’s two girls squads were victorious on Day 2 of the tournament.

Anna Kwon and Savita Sikkil of CNMI 2 defeated Guam 3’s Eliza San Augustin, 6-1, 6-1, and Amelie Terlaje, 6-3, 6-4, respectively, to secure the early win for the host team. CNMI 1’s Irin Chung



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI’s Serin Chung returns to the Federated State of Micronesia’s Nicole Paterson during their girls U14 singles game in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

and Dana Lee also took the outright victory, as the former beat FSM’s Destiny Narruhn, 6-3, 6-1, and the latter swept Jenny Sipos, 6-0, 6-3.

In other results in team event, Guam Girls 1 won over Guam Girls 2, 2-0; Guam Boys 2 topped FSM Boys 2, 2-0; and Guam Boys 1 out-

classed CNMI Boys 2, 2-0. There were four other pairings scheduled for yesterday, but results have yet to be posted on the tournament website.



Warriors stay
alive with Game
5 victory

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Ellis downplays
Solo's critical
comments

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3 CNMI players still unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sean Lee, Helen Kim, and Sam Ryu are still perfect in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships.

The No. 1 seeded Lee notched another dominant win after sweeping Guam's Jacob San Augustin, 6-0, 6-0, in the boys U16 singles game yesterday morning at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Lee has yet to drop a game, as he also blanked No. 4 Deavyn Etscheit of the Federated States of Micronesia during his opening game last Monday. The top-ranked player was also scheduled to meet fellow CNMI player Jun Wang in the afternoon match, but results of their tiff along with the two other games in Group A, has yet to be posted on the event website as off press time last night.

Carol earns highest world ranking



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Carol Lee is now ranked No. 114 in the world after making it to the doubles finals in her debut tournament in Belgium late last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is now ranked No. 114 in the world, climbing up to the ladder of the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors following her finals appearance in the 55th Astrid Bowl Charleroi/Belgian International Junior Championships in Belgium late last month.



The ranking is Lee's highest so far after getting the No. 119 spot in March following her singles title win against No.1 seed Aubane Drognet of France in the ITF/CAT North African Circuit.

The 17-year-old then fell to No. 126, as she was idle for weeks before heading to Europe for a series of tour-

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In Group B, No. 2 Ryu duplicated Lee's 2-0 record after defeating Guam's Aidan Schembari, 6-0, 6-2, and was going for win No. 3 yesterday against FSM's Nolen Naruhn.

In the girls U14 singles, Kim improved to a 3-0 mark to stay on top of Group A following her 6-2, 7-5 triumph over FSM's Movida Jerry. Kim was slated to play her fourth match versus FSM's Artisha Malarme yesterday.

Also winning on Day 2 in the Group A match is No. 1

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sean Lee hits the ball back to Guam's Jacob San Augustin during their boys U16 singles game in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday morning at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Lee won, 6-0, 6-0.

Kanoa vs Shirley's in Dove league finale



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Irish Pagarao, second left, attacks the defense of Matansa Football Club during their semis game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs 11 League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kanoa Football Club and Shirley's Football Club arranged their

championship showdown in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs 11 League after eliminating their respective playoff foes last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Shirley's advanced to the finals first following a 7-0 crushing of Paire Football Club in the opening semis match, while Kanoa downed Matansa Football Club in the other Final Four game, 6-3. Kanoa and Shirley's will dispute the season crown this Sunday at 6pm, while Matansa and Paire will

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